


Wagner Group faces further sanctions

Russia's mercenary Wagner Group faces more sanctions for "human rights abuses" in Africa and Ukraine. Africa is increasingly important to Russia – isolated by the West since the invasion of Ukraine

 Military and political engagement

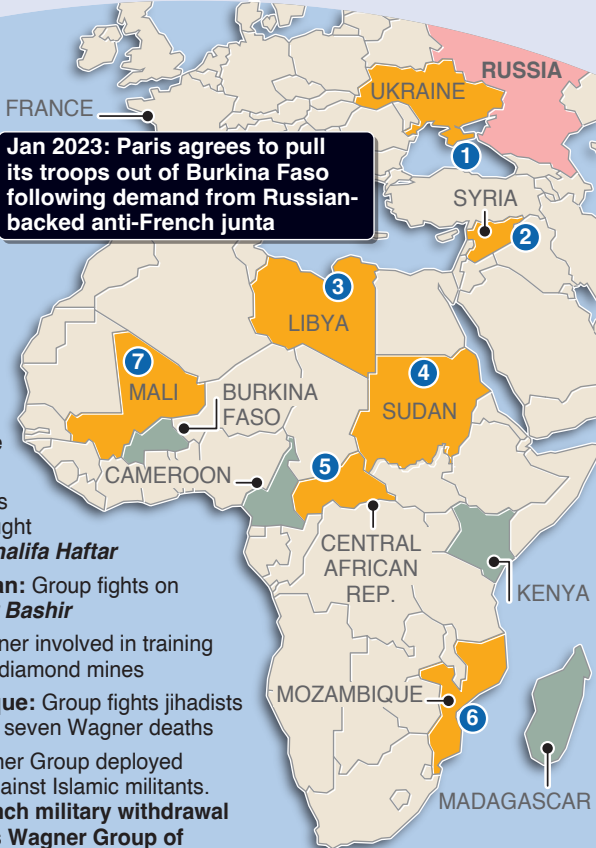
 Economic and political



1 2014, Ukraine: Lieutenant colonel **Dmitry Utkin** (left) and his mercenary squad take part in annexation of Crimea. Group named after Utkin's call sign, **Wagner**



2015: Yevgeny Prigozhin (below) – close ally of President **Vladimir Putin** – becomes Wagner's patron



Jan 2023: Paris agrees to pull its troops out of Burkina Faso following demand from Russian-backed anti-French junta

2 2015-18, Syria: Wagner supports Russian military. 100 Wagner members killed in U.S. air strike

3 2016-20, Libya: 1,000 Wagner fighters estimated to have fought alongside General **Khalifa Haftar**

4 2017-2019, Sudan: Group fights on side of dictator **Omar Bashir**

5 2017, CAR: Wagner involved in training troops and control of diamond mines

6 2019, Mozambique: Group fights jihadists in north. Leaves after seven Wagner deaths

7 2021, Mali: Wagner Group deployed to provide security against Islamic militants. **Move precedes French military withdrawal in 2022. EU accuses Wagner Group of extrajudicial killings in Mali**