The Moscow Times
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Russian Mobile Crematoria Burn Dead in Mariupol, Council Says

April 06, 2022



Mariupol, Ukraine. **Sergei Bobylev / TASS**

Russian mobile crematoria have been operating in Mariupol in an apparent bid to hide the death toll amid intense fighting in the Ukrainian city, local officials said Tuesday.

"Taking into account the size of the city, the catastrophic destruction, the fierce resistance, tens of thousands civilians could [actually] have been killed by the occupants," the city council said in its statement.

There have been multiple reports that mobile crematoria have accompanied the Russian army since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine, but no independent verification.

A Turkish proposal to evacuate the dead and the wounded from Mariupol, which had a pre-war population of almost half a million, is currently awaiting approval from Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

"The occupants are trying to track and kill all the potential witnesses of the massacre," the

city council said. “This is why Russia isn’t quick to greenlight the Turkish mission.”

Mariupol mayor Vadym Boichenko said Monday that the city was “on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe.”

Original url: https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/04/06/russian-mobile-crematoria-burn-dead-in-mariupol-council-says-a77248