The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Wagner Camp Under Construction in Belarus – Reports

June 28, 2023

Wagner fighters leave the headquarters of the Russian Southern Military District in Rostov-on-Don. **Erik Romanenko / TASS**

Satellite images purporting to show the construction of a camp for exiled Wagner mercenaries after their failed revolt were shared online late Tuesday by independent Belarusian media.

According to the Telegram channel Belarus Golovnovo Mozga, satellite images dated June 27 show what appears to be construction underway at a military compound near the town of Asipovichy, some 100 kilometers southeast of Minsk.

The channel also cited local residents, who claimed they had witnessed "strange activity" involving a "large number" of construction workers near the compound.

"Information in documents indicates that about 1,780 four-bed bunks and 400 two-seat toilets are required by tomorrow," an unnamed forestry worker was quoted as saying, without providing details about the documents.

It was not possible to independently verify the report.

Related article: Wagner Leader Arriving in Belarus – Lukashenko

On Monday, the independent Russian news outlet Vyorstka — citing local authorities and relatives of Wagner fighters — reported that Belarus had started building camps for Wagner mercenaries.

According to the report, the camps are expected to accommodate 8,000 fighters.

Meanwhile, Belarusian lawmakers on Wednesday ratified an agreement on joint Russian-Belarusian "combat training centers" at existing military compounds, according to state media.

The news follows Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's confirmation Tuesday that Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin had arrived in Belarus as part of a deal to stop Wagner's rebellion over the weekend.

"I could use such a unit in the army," Lukashenko said, instructing his defense minister to discuss Wagner's possible deployment in Belarus.

Prigozhin on Monday said Lukashenko had offered Wagner mercenaries to "work in a lawful jurisdiction."

Russian President Vladimir Putin gave Wagner fighters the choice of signing contracts with the Russian army or leaving for Belarus following their armed revolt over the weekend.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/06/28/wagner-camp-under-construction-in-belarus-reports-a81678