

Court in Party Struggle

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In a rare move, a court has intervened in a political party's internal dispute, ordering the Communists to reinstate a State Duma deputy they purged from their ranks in July, Kommersant reported Thursday.

Vladislav Yurchik, a critic of Communist leaders, was expelled by the Krasnoyarsk party branch for alleged violations of party rules and "anti-party activity," the report said. He claims that he was actually punished for refusing to give up his Duma seat to a party boss. Local party officials said they are undecided on an appeal but will not reinstate Yurchik because the court has no authority to intervene in internal party affairs.

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