

2 Separate Rallies to Disrupt Moscow Traffic

By The Moscow Times

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Central Moscow will be partly shut down on Saturday for two separate rallies set to take place — both of which expect 5,000 people to attend.

The first rally, organized by the Russian Mothers in response to the latest U.S.-Russian adoptions battle, will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The Russian Mothers set up the rally to campaign for the return of Kirill Kuzmin, the twoyear old brother of Maxim Kuzmin, who died in the care of his adoptive family in Texas in January, Interfax reported Friday.

The march will begin on Gogolevsky Bulvar near the Prospekt Mira metro station and finish at New Pushkin Square, near the Pushkinskaya metro station. Traffic on Gogolevsky Bulvar, Nikitsky Bulvar and Tverskoi Bulvar will be restricted, and the even-numbered side of the street on Strastnoi Bulvar, Petrovsky Bulvar and Sretensky Bulvar will be closed down. For that rally, restrictions will be in place from 10 a.m. until the event concludes, police said in a <u>statement</u>.

The second rally, "The March for Muscovites' Rights," is set to begin at 2:00 p.m. on Strastnoi Bulvar and proceed to Prospekt Akademika Sakharova. Traffic will be restricted from Turgenevsky Ploshchad to Sadovaya-Spasskaya Ulitsa until the rally ends.

The rallies, though held at virtually the same time, are likely to attract very different crowds.

"The March for Muscovites' Rights" rally was organized by Left Front leader Sergei Udaltsov, who also organized the "March Against Scoundrels" rally in January – an event that saw participants gather at a dumpster to literally throw out portraits of Duma deputies who'd supported the ban on U.S. adoptions of Russian children.

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