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Former Soviet States Follow Russia in Banning Release of 'Child 44' Movie

By Peter Spinella

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Unlike the 2014 Russian film "Leviathan," which was widely acclaimed in the West despite being barraged with complaints by Russian officials, "Child 44" has been generally panned by Western critics.

The release of American-British film "Child 44," about a serial killer of children in the Soviet Union, has been canceled in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan following similar moves in Russia and Belarus, media reported Thursday.

A source at the Kyrgyz movie theater chain Cinematica was quoted by Interfax as saying the decision was made by the national Culture Ministry.

Earlier this week Russia's Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky wrote that the film portrays the Soviet Union as a land of "physically and morally defective subhumans" where "starving children eat their weaker classmates."

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One comment on popular review site Rotten Tomatoes, which grades the film as 31 out of 100, tells potential moviegoers to "just say nyet."

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