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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Former Pro-Putin Activist Celebrates U.S. Green Card on Instagram

March 13, 2017

Masha Drokova **Masha Drokova / Instagram**

Just five years ago, Masha Drokova starred in a Danish documentary film about her journey through "Nashi," a pro-Kremlin youth movement, where she served as a commissar and led the group's Moscow regional branch. In 2008, at the age of 18, she was awarded "for service to the fatherland" by President Putin himself. A year later, she famously planted a kiss on his cheek at a youth festival.

This Monday, writing from San Francisco, Drokova shared the happy news that she's now the proud owner of a U.S. green card — "the most beautiful green I've ever seen," she said on Instagram.

Embed:

The most beautiful green I've ever seen I'm so excited and grateful to receive a green card and get closer to the citizenship in my home country Thank you Katya Yoffe - the most amazing lawyer and professional I know.

A post shared by Masha Drokova (@mashadrokova) on Mar 12, 2017 at 8:03pm PDT

Drokova's turn from Russian hyper-patriotism was evident even in 2012, when Lise Birk

Pedersen released her documentary about the former Nashi apparatchik.

Embed:

In the film, Drokova had already left Nashi, and she was now questioning the movement's politics, thanks in part to her friendship with independent journalists and activists like Oleg Kashin, Ilya Azar, and Ilya Yashin, who also appear in the movie.

Kashin's nearly fatal beating in 2010, which many at the time believed to be the work of Nashi activists, especially shook her faith in the group.

According to a January 2016 report by Christopher Miller, Drokova has relocated to the United States, where she works in public relations consulting for global tech companies.

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