

Pro-Kremlin Movement Once Again Removes Nemtsov Memorial Plaque

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Hyper-nationalist pro-Kremlin activists have once again removed a makeshift plaque installed in honor of murdered opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, the state-run TASS news agency <u>reported</u> Wednesday.

SERB leader Igor Beketov told TASS that its activists dismantled the newly mounted plaque early on Wednesday and delivered it to the Moscow police. "Residents of the house have repeatedly warned those who arranged the Nemtsov memorial near their windows that this person had never lived in their house," Beketov said.

He maintained that those who are responsible for installing the Nemtsov nameplate should face legal retribution.

The SERB movement <u>removed</u> a makeshift nameplate put up on Nemtsov's house in central Moscow on Sept. 11. City officials argue that the plaque was installed illegally, while

opposition politicians maintain that it was a lawful citizens' initiative. Following its initial removal, an unnamed source in the city administration offered to install the memorial plaque "inside the entranceway" as a compromise.

Related article: Moscow Officials Seek Removal of Nemtsov Plaque

SERB also <u>raided</u> a improvised memorial to the former deputy prime minister and fierce Kremlin critic on the bridge a month after his murder. Beketov, who also goes by the name Gosha Tarasevich, argued at the time that the movement seeks to "always fight traitors to Russia in all of its manifestations."

Moscow authorities have refused calls for a memorial site to honor Nemtsov, citing regulations which require 10 years to pass after a person's death. Another rule allows for a memorial plaque to be installed after a period of two years at the person's workplace.

The Moscow Mayor's Office reportedly rejected a September 2016 petition with 30,000 signatures asking for a small plaque commemorating Nemtsov to be erected on the Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge. Nemtsov was gunned down on Feb. 27, 2015, while walking home in the evening across the bridge.

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