

## Nemtsov Plaza Unveiled in Washington to Angry Russian Response

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## **Reuters Staff**

A plaza dedicated to the Russian opposition figure Boris Nemtsov has been unveiled in the U.S. capital of Washington, three years after the politician was gunned down on a bridge by the Kremlin on Feb. 27, 2015.

A Washington city council <u>decided</u> to rename the section in front of the Russian Embassy in memory of Nemtsov in early January, leading to angry reactions from Russian lawmakers. Russian <u>police</u> and <u>pro-Kremlin activists</u> have previously removed all plaques placed by Nemtsov's supporters in Moscow, although the mayor's office <u>allowed</u> a march in his memory last week.

Related article: Three Years After Nemtsov's Murder, Thousands Gather to Honor Him

Leonid Slutsky, head of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, <u>said</u> the renaming was a "crude and harsh decision, made to pique us, though it's the prerogative of the

American authorities that they thought they could offend us with."

One conservative MP has <u>proposed</u> renaming the street in front of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow "North American Dead End, 1."

Nemtsov's supporters in Moscow previously <u>requested</u> to rename Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge, where the politician was murdered, in his honor, but Moscow officials have refused the request, the Vedomosti business daily <u>reported</u>.

Last week, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin <u>announced</u> that a plaque dedicated to Nemtsov could be set up at the building in which he lived, pending the approval of local residents.

Vladimir Kara-Murza, a friend of Nemtsov's who chairs a foundation in his honor, said Nemtsov would not himself have wanted a plaque.

"The best possible tribute to him and to his legacy will be a free and democratic Russia, and that day will come," Kara-Murza was <u>cited</u> as saying by The Washington Post on Tuesday.

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