

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 [decided](#) 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 [police](#) and [pro-Kremlin activists](#) have previously removed all plaques placed by Nemtsov's supporters in Moscow, although the mayor's office [allowed](#) 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, [said](#) the re-naming 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 [proposed](#) renaming the street in front of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow "North American Dead End, 1."

Nemtsov's supporters in Moscow previously [requested](#) to rename Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge, where the politician was murdered, in his honor, but Moscow officials have refused the request, the Vedomosti business daily [reported](#).

Last week, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin [announced](#) 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 [cited](#) as saying by The Washington Post on Tuesday.

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