

# Putin Orders Officials to Resettle Survivors of Deadly Building Explosion

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**Emergency Situations Ministry**

President Vladimir Putin has ordered regional authorities to resettle the surviving residents of an apartment building hit by an explosion in the industrial city of Magnitogorsk late last month.

Thirty-nine people were killed in the partial collapse of a Soviet-era apartment block on Dec. 31. Following reports of plans to divide the damaged building in two and let the survivors move back in, 208,500 participants [signed](#) a petition calling on regional authorities to resettle the residents elsewhere.

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“The house needs to be resettled,” Interfax quoted Putin as [telling](#) Chelyabinsk region governor Boris Dubrovsky at the first cabinet session of the year on Wednesday.

The znak.com news website [estimates](#) the resettlement will affect more than 1,000 residents of the ill-fated building.

Putin said more than 1.3 billion rubles (\$19.5 million) will be allocated from the federal and regional budgets on the resettlement.

The president also said that major Magnitogorsk-based steelmaker MMK would be asked to contribute to the resettlement.

“I know they always respond to these [tragedies],” Putin was quoted as saying.

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