

Moscow Activists Mark Lenin's Birthday With Calls to Take Down Statue

April 22, 2019



decomunization / Vkontakte

Anti-Communist activists have made a visual call to take down Moscow's largest surviving statue of Lenin on the Soviet leader's 149th birthday.

Several republics of the former Soviet Union have [dismantled](#) and replaced Lenin statues since the USSR collapsed in 1991. Russian politicians have continued to [debate](#) whether to bury Lenin's body or preserve it in its mausoleum on Red Square.

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"Subject to dismantlement as part of decommunization," read the banner placed on the statue's base on Monday.

The banner was taken down 10 minutes after it was installed, the [Dozhd TV](#) news channel

reported.

Last year, a fight [erupted](#) between members of one of Russia's communist parties and local municipal politicians over proposals to move his statue on Kaluzhskaya Ploshchad.

Conservative lawmaker Natalia Poklonskaya joined several high-profile figures in calling for Lenin's body to be buried, [describing](#) it as "a relic that's pulling us behind" on Monday.

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