

Russia Demands U.S. End ‘Discriminatory’ Athlete Visa Practices

July 26, 2019

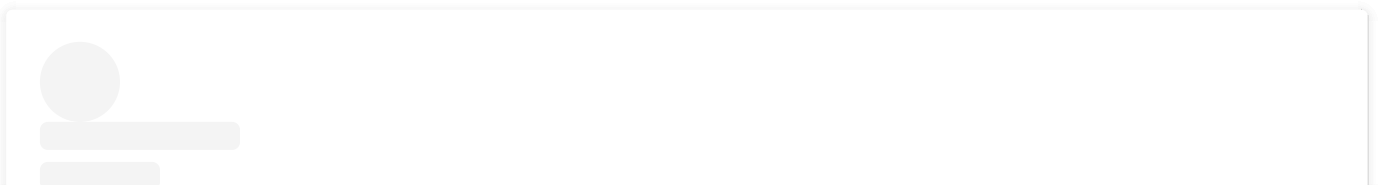


Svetlana Kuznetsova **Seth Wenig / AP / TASS**

Russia has called on the United States to end its “discriminatory” visa policy toward Russian athletes after it denied a visa to tennis star Svetlana Kuznetsova, effectively forcing her to skip a tournament to defend her title.

Kuznetsova, 34, will not be able to defend her title at the July 27-Aug. 4 Citi Open in Washington D.C. because of visa issues, she [wrote](#) on social media Thursday. Russian MMA fighter Ramazan Emeyev has reportedly also been [denied](#) a U.S. visa ahead of his match in New Jersey next weekend.

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Unfortunately I had to pull out of Washington due to my problems with US visa(. Wanted to apologize to all my fans who were waiting for me there .. Never had issues like this in my life , hopefully one day I can finally get a visa and play at list some events of the US swing ! // Друзья , ситуация с Американской визой вынуждает сняться с турнира в Вашингтоне, к сожалению не смогу туда поехать и постараться защитить титул. Такая ситуация сложилась за карьеру (не короткую ☹) впервые, очень надеюсь на ее скорое разрешение ! #гдеродилсятамипригодился #язналчтоуменяестьогромнаясемья

A post shared by [Svetlana Kuznetsova/ Кузнецова \(@svetlanak27\)](#) on Jul 24, 2019 at 11:49pm PDT

“We’re outraged by the continuing practice of keeping our athletes from participating in major competitions in the U.S.,” the Russian Embassy in Washington said on Friday.

The embassy sent a note to the U.S. State Department to demand an end to “the discriminatory visa-issuing policy,” it [wrote](#) on Facebook.

Kuznetsova, a twice Grand Slam winner who is ranked 108th in the world, collected the most recent of her 18 WTA singles titles last year in the U.S. capital.

Related article: [Russia Denies Visas to Anglo-American School Teachers](#)

“Never had issues like this in my life, hopefully one day I can finally get a visa and play at [least] some events of the U.S. swing!” she said on Instagram.

Russia recently [denied](#) visas to 30 incoming foreign teachers of the Anglo-American School in Moscow, its board member reportedly told Western embassies last week. Moscow [blamed](#) a “visa war that the U.S. launched two years ago” for the teachers’ visa denials.

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