The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Jews Celebrate Hanukkah Across the Country

December 23, 2019

Sergei Karpukhin / TASS

Russia began celebrations of the eight-day Jewish holiday of Hannukah on Sunday with candle-lighting ceremonies across the country, including on Moscow's Ploshchad Revolyutsii.

Candles were also lit in St. Petersburg, Rostov-on-Don, Nizhny Novgorod, Samara and other cities.

Here's a look at the first day of celebrations:

In Moscow, Russia's Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar lit the first candle on Manezh Square in front of hundreds of people who came to celebrate.

Embed:

View this post on Instagram

СОБЫТИЯ | ХАНУКА Ханука на площади революции. Все мы видели как вчера главный раввин России Берл Лазар поднялся над площадью Революции чтобы зажечь ханукальный светильник. Наша камера побывала даже там. #раввин #лазар #берллазар #ханука #ханука2019 #хабад #хабадмосква #меоц #занукия #праздник #евреи #еврейскиепраздники

A post shared by МЕОЦ (@mjcc.ru) on Dec 23, 2019 at 12:14am PST

"May God grant this light to burn in every Jewish home and everywhere this Hanukkah! And may we have an opportunity to add even more light, more goodness, more love!" the rabbi said.

The start of the holidays was accompanied by music and menorahs.

Embed:

Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Natali (@00natali_natali) 22 Дек 2019 в 11:29 PST

The celebrations continued with fireworks and dancing to traditional Jewish music.

Special events were organized in the city to mark the celebration. The Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center in Moscow hosted family programs, excursions, quests and a concert.

Embed:

Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Анна (@anniarmnananni) 2 Дек 2018 в 7:32 PST

Hanukkah has become a tradiiton in Russia's capital over the past three decades since the fall of the Soviet Union, the chief rabbi said.

Embed:

Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Alla Druzhinina (@alla_druzhinina) 22 Дек 2019 в 7:11 PST

"This is the 30th time when we light a menorah in the center of Moscow. If people were surprised before, today, all of our neighbors, all of our friends, see it as a tradition and rejoice with us," he added.

Embed:

Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Кирилл Савинов (@ki_savinov_gid) 22 Дек 2019 в 6:15 PST

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/12/23/russian-jews-celebrate-hanukkah-across-country-a68719