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Pussy Riot Flies LGBT Flags From Gov't Buildings to Mark Putin's Birthday

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An LGBT pride flag hangs from the Culture Ministry building. **PussyRiot / facebook**

Russian anti-government activists marked President Vladimir Putin's 68th birthday Wednesday by hanging LGBT flags from key government buildings in Moscow.

Pussy Riot said it hung the rainbow flags on the facades of "the most important symbols of Russian statehood."

The anti-Kremlin punk rock group shared photos of its members installing the LGBT flags on the Federal Security Service (FSB), district police, Supreme Court and Culture Ministry buildings. Two journalists were detained during the process, Pussy Riot said.

The group listed a set of demands, including the legalization of same-sex "partnerships," an end to discrimination against LGBT Russians and investigations into the reported kidnappings and killings of LGBT members in the ultraconservative republic of Chechnya. The group also called for the repeal of Russia's controversial law banning homosexual

“propaganda” toward minors.

“We give this rainbow to everyone as a symbol of the missing love and freedom,” Pussy Riot said on its Facebook page.

Embed:

Meanwhile, unknown individuals have hung a pro-Putin banner from the building opposite the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, according to the Mash Telegram channel, which is said to have links with Russian security services.

“Happy bday president number one,” reads the two-story-tall sign in capital letters with a photo of Putin donning an army jacket.

The Kremlin said Putin plans to spend his 68th birthday at work with around a dozen scheduled phone conversations with foreign and domestic figures. He will spend the rest of the day with family and friends.

Last year, Putin spent his 67th birthday hiking and mushroom-gathering in the Siberian mountains with Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.

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