

Prigozhin Supporters Call to Name St. Petersburg Street in His Honor

December 18, 2023



A memorial to Yevgeny Prigozhin and other Wagner leaders. PLATEL (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Supporters of the Wagner mercenary group's late leader Yevgeny Prigozhin have asked authorities in St. Petersburg to name a city street in his honor, the Ostorozhno Novosti news channel <u>reported</u> Monday, citing a letter addressed to the regional governor.

Prigozhin died in a plane crash in August, just months after mounting a short-lived mutiny against Russia's military leadership that was seen as the biggest challenge to President Vladimir Putin's two-decade rule.

In a letter addressed to St. Petersburg Governor Alexander Beglov, a group of veterans asked for one of the city's streets to be renamed in Prigozhin's honor, while also calling for the erection of a monument dedicated to him.

"Yevgeny Viktorovich [Prigozhin] left an indelible mark on the country, evidenced by the high honors and awards bestowed to him in his lifetime," read the letter, a screenshot of which was shared by Ostorozhno Novosti on the messaging app Telegram. **Related article**: <u>Hours Before Declaring Mutiny, Prigozhin Secretly Planned Duma Speech to</u> <u>Win Back Putin's Favor</u>

The letter, dated Dec. 18, was signed by Dmitry Podolsky, chairman of a St. Petersburg-based veterans' organization that was previously headed by Prigozhin's former aide Andrei Troshev.

The group said it had chosen to write directly to Beglov after being ignored by lower-level officials in the months since the late Wagner leader's death.

Beglov's office has not yet commented on the reported letter.

Wagner was <u>disbanded</u> this fall and its fighters have since been transferred to units under the control of the Russian Defense Ministry.

Prigozhin<u>openly feuded</u> with Beglov over his stalled development projects in St. Petersburg.

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https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/12/18/prigozhin-supporters-call-to-name-st-petersburg-street-in-his-honor-a83467