

Father Frost Gets Cold Shoulder in Uzbekistan

By [The Moscow Times](#)

December 10, 2012

The  **Moscow Times**

ALMATY, Kazakhstan — Taking a page out of a Dr. Seuss story, Uzbekistan is reportedly stealing Christmas by keeping the local version of Santa Claus off the airwaves.

Independent news website UzMetronom reported Monday that President Islam Karimov's authoritarian government imposed the informal ban on Father Frost and his snow maiden sidekick.

The characters have for decades been regular fixtures across the former Soviet world over the New Year's holiday season.

The ban is similar to the semiofficial 2005 ban on celebrating New Year's Eve.

Uzbekistan has shown hostility to other holidays deemed insufficiently native. In February, authorities canceled concerts for Valentine's Day and instead organized readings of poems

by the medieval Mughal emperor Babur.

(AP)

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