

# News From Russia: What You Missed Over the Weekend

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Sandzhi Ubushiyev / TASS

## Dead or alive?

U.S. President Donald Trump [thanked](#) countries including Russia for their roles in an overnight raid led by U.S. military forces in Syria that reportedly killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defense Ministry said it had no reliable information on what it called "yet another 'elimination' of the former IS leader."

## Donbass transplant

Around 4,000 residents of Russia's Buddhist-majority republic of Kalmykia took to the streets against the appointment of a new mayor who had once been the leader of a separatist-held region in eastern Ukraine, organizers [say](#).

Police estimated that 650 people attended the unauthorized rally in the Kalmyk capital of

Elista. ("The rest are visitors of children's amusement rides," they [said](#).)

### **Sweet home**

Russian national Maria Butina, who was jailed in the United States in April after admitting to working as a Russian agent, [arrived](#) in Moscow after serving most of her 18-month sentence.

"Russians never surrender," an emotional Butina told reporters at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport, flanked by her father and the Russian Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman.

### **Dubrovka vigil**

Former hostages and victims' relatives held a [vigil](#) to commemorate the 17th anniversary of Moscow's Nord-Ost theater hostage crisis.

An estimated 850 people were held hostage at the theater by Chechen rebels on Oct. 26, 2002. Russian special forces stormed the theater after a three-day siege, killing all 41 insurgents. At least 129 hostages also died.

*Includes reporting from Reuters.*

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