

# The Nemtsev Assassination: New Cold War and the Politics of Russia

Global Research News Hour Episode 95

By [Michael Welch](#) and [Roger Annis](#)

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Region: [Canada](#), [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#)

In-depth Report: [UKRAINE REPORT](#)

*“One of the most plausible theories that I have as regards the assassination of Nemtsev is that this was something to do with a rogue branch of either the Russian State itself, or of the Oligarchy settling scores because Nemtsev was of some influence....One of the difficulties with any thesis that implicates the Russian State is that almost nobody in the Russian State has any interest in the death of Nemtsev. Putin certainly does not....*

*The other hypothesis you have to consider, and it’s really possible, is that it was an American operation.”*

-Alan Freeman, from this week’s program

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On the evening of February 27, Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov was walking in the vicinity of the Kremlin when a gunman fired four shots into his back from a passing car.

The murder took place two days before the 55 year-old former deputy prime minister under Boris Yeltsin was to lead an opposition rally in Moscow. The intended demonstration had been transformed into a memorial for Nemtsov with attendance numbering in the thousands.

Rumours have been circulating that Nemtsov was to present evidence positively establishing Russian involvement in East Ukraine. The murder took place in a high security area, circumstantially suggesting the hit was allowed or made to happen on purpose.[1]

As this news began to disperse through the global media landscape, providing more fodder for the international Putin-demonization campaign (the Russian President denies government involvement and has called the killing a “provocation”)[2] news has come of US and Canadian troops being dispatched to the region. [3][4]

The website [NEWCOLDWAR.org](http://NEWCOLDWAR.org) was conceived several months ago in the wake of the information fog swirling around Ukraine since the coup of February 2014 and the subsequent civil war in the Donbass region. It claims to carefully source all the information coming out of the region, thereby separating the facts from the propaganda.

This week's Global Research News Hour returns to the ever evolving week by week developments surrounding the crisis in East Ukraine with two guests, both editors from NEWCOLDWAR.org.

[Roger Annis](#) is a retired aerospace worker and a long-time socialist and trade union activist. He has written extensively on peace and social justice issues and lives in Vancouver. Annis helps probe recent developments in the Ukraine situation in the first half hour, expressing his thoughts about the Nemtsov murder, the dispatch of NATO troops, and the Putin demonization campaign and why the media is being deliberately deceptive in its reporting.

Alan Freeman is a former economist working with the greater London authority, and a visiting professor at the London Metropolitan University, now living in Winnipeg. He is also a co-editor of the Future of Capitalism book series. He has visited Russia on several occasions since before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990-91. In the second half hour of the program, Freeman examines Russia's internal political dynamics and what they say about Russian responses to provocations from the West, and the likelihood of Russian involvement in Nemtsov's murder.

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Notes:

1) Chris Johnston (March 7, 2015), "Russia detains two men in Boris Nemtsov murder inquiry", [The Guardian](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/07/boris-nemtsov-murder-russia-two-arrests) ;  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/07/boris-nemtsov-murder-russia-two-arrests>

2) *ibid*

3) <http://www.globalresearch.ca/despite-russian-warnings-us-will-deploy-a-battalion-to-ukraine-by-the-end-of-the-week/5434755>

4) <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/operations-abroad/nato-ee.page>

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