

## Communists protest Putin; Lugovy slams UK

by UPI

MOSCOW -- Members of Russia's Communist party convened in central Moscow Thursday to demonstrate against the weekend state Duma elections. "Putin stole the poll," protesters chanted in Lubyanka Square near the former headquarters of the KGB, EuroNews.net reported Thursday. Putin's United Russia Party swept the parliamentary elections, winning 315 of the 450 Duma seats, leaving the Communist Party to finish far behind with 57 seats. Andrei Lugovoy, who is wanted by officials in London for the death of intelligence officer Alexander Litvinenko, said his election to the Liberal Democrat Party was a "slap in the face" for England. Diplomatic relations between Russia and England soured over the death of Litvinenko, sparking protests in front of the British Embassy in Moscow and before the Russian offices of the BBC.

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