

## Poland former deputy PM faces sex charges

*by UPI*

WARSAW, Poland -- Poland's prosecutors have filed charges against former Deputy Prime Minister Andrzej Lepper following allegations he sexually abused a female employee. The Prosecutors Office in Lodz on Thursday conducted a two-hour interrogation with Lepper and then released him on bail, Polish Radio said Friday. Lepper, leader of the Polish populist Self-Defense party, denied the allegations. If convicted on the sex abuse charges, Lepper could face up to eight years in jail. Lodz state prosecutors opened an investigation into the allegations last December when Lepper was agriculture minister and a deputy prime minister in the former coalition government. In a newspaper interview, a woman said Lepper employed her on condition she had sex with him. Lepper immediately denied the woman's allegations. The Gazeta Wyborcza newspaper in December said Lepper promised the woman a job in the Self-Defense party's office in Lodz five years ago. The woman said she agreed to have sex with Lepper because she needed the job.

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