

Polish police and workers clash in Warsaw

by UPI

WARSAW, Poland -- At least 50 workers were injured in a clash with Warsaw police during anti-government protests against job cuts, authorities said.

Three policemen were also hurt when some 5,000 workers of the Polish National Railways and several hundred shipyard workers from the Baltic Sea port of Gdansk protested against the Polish government's economic policy, Polish Radio said Thursday.

In the demonstration Wednesday, protesters burned tires and tossed firecrackers at riot police.

Workers assembled in front of a conference hall where the European People's Party held a meeting. Workers tried to break through barricades around the hall but police used clubs, pepper spray and fire extinguishers to stop them, the radio said.

The demonstration was provoked by reported government plans to close thousands of miles of state-run railroad tracks that would lead to considerable job cuts.

Workers of the Gdansk shipyard, the only one still in operation in the country, are angry about a recent decision by the European Commission to reject the Polish government's plan to reconstruct the facility. Instead the EC asked for cuts in production capacity, which means worker layoffs.

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