



## Daily Coverage | Dec 3, 2018

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### POLAND

#### PO tells prosecutor NBP's Glapinski tried to censor media

Poland | Dec 03, 18:01

- **PO reports on Glapinski for potentially trying to introduce censorship, limit free media**
- **NBP has tried to gag several media outlets for reporting on Glapinski's ties to ex-KNF head Chrzanowski**

The opposition Civic Platform (PO) informed the prosecutor's office on Mon. that NBP Governor Adam Glapinski might have abused his office in an attempt to censor free media and reduce the media's ability to keep authorities in check, according to its MPs. The PO's Arkadiusz Myrcha said that only the media could have uncovered the scandal that saw ex-Polish Financial Supervision Authority (KNF) head Marek Chrzanowski, a reported acolyte of Glapinski, be accused of soliciting a bribe from a bank owner in return for laxer regulatory supervision. Glapinski originally defended Chrzanowski from the allegations, instead accusing the journalists that uncovered the affair for the daily Gazeta Wyborcza of being to blame for trying to undermine the banking system.

The NBP has submitted six motions to the Warsaw district court to temporarily delete newspaper articles in connection to the NBP and the KNF affair, according to a story originally reported by the state news agency PAP and added to on Mon. by the key dailies Rzeczpospolita and Gazeta Wyborcza. Though this is unofficial, the journalists required to delete stories were said to be from Gazeta Wyborcza, Rzeczpospolita and Newsweek Polska, among others. Myrcha concluded that the actions of Glapinski should be read as an

attempt at censorship and a bid to sweep the matter under the carpet. This violates press freedom laws, he said.

Chrzanowski was detained and then ruled to remain under arrest for two months as a court investigates the corruption allegations. The tabloid Fakt reported Fri. that Chrzanowski might have been guilty of more corruption, citing a case back in October 2011 where he set up a company before he got his doctorate that won a bid from the Justice Ministry under the control of a colleague from university (who has since been arrested on other corruption charges) to earn him PLN 2mn. Chrzanowski allegedly used students he was teaching to undertake research for free for the contract. The contract was said to have been inflated. The company created by Chrzanowski is technically run by his wife, who also happens to work for the NBP in what some say is a potential conflict of interest. Neither Chrzanowski nor his wife commented on the allegations, though Chrzanowski has said he is innocent.

Overall, the NBP action to get news stories deleted has re-heated the KNF issue, which had looked likely to die down a bit. No one has accused Glapinski of being involved directly in the alleged bribery solicitation, but he seems very involved the politics of personnel decisions and now in an attempt that looks like its goal is de facto censorship. Glapinski has been weakened by the scandal, though so far it did not appear like his job was in jeopardy. More such stories could create further buzz, which is already uncovering alleged nepotism in NBP hiring, and that could shine more of a spotlight on Glapinski, though one imagines he will stay. But even if Glapinski was forced out, the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) would likely name someone very similar to him.

Ask the editor

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