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On Women's Day, Russian Lawmaker Slutsky Apologizes for Sexual Harassment

March 08, 2018

Sergei Konkov / TASS

The State Duma deputy at the center of sexual harassment allegations levied by female journalists released an apology on Women's Day on Thursday.

Leonid Slutsky, head of the Duma's foreign affairs committee, has been accused in recent weeks of sexual harassment by five journalists, with one of them alleging to have audio recordings as evidence of his misconduct. The Duma's ethics commission reportedly asked Slutsky to explain the accusations on Wednesday.

Related article: Who We Should Really Be Congratulating on Women's Day (Op-ed)

In a Facebook post marking International Women's Day, Slutsky said he wanted to use the opportunity to "say sorry to those of you I've caused any discomfort, consciously or

unconsciously."

"Trust me," he wrote. "It was not out of malice."

Protesters appealing for an investigation into the harassment allegations gathered outside the State Duma in Moscow earlier in the day. Demonstrators called out Slutsky and the reluctance of Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin to launch a formal investigation.

Protesters included the web editor of the Vedomosti business daily Maxim Tovkaylo and activists from Amnesty International.

Embed:

> Теперь Максим Товкайло, шеф-редактор сайта Ведомостей, в пикете у Госдумы: https://t.co/iR6jrFTtvh pic.twitter.com/CChk78AQhC
>
> — Телеканал Дождь (@tvrain) March 8, 2018

Deputy Slutsky, come out, I'll touch you, "just a little bit."

Embed:

> На запланированные пикеты журналисток и Amnesty International федеральное тв и Собчак уже не остались
>
> Фото: Алексей Абанин / Дождь pic.twitter.com/FHdM7HYp6U
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> — Телеканал Дождь (@tvrain) March 8, 2018

Mister Volodin, afraid to investigate harassment in the Duma? If so, change jobs.

Volodin on Wednesday said that female journalists who fear harassment at the Duma should "change jobs."

Opposition candidate Sobchak appeared before the rally took place and spoke to reporters, but departed before noon.

Embed:

> У Госдумы сейчас так. С 12:00 пройдут одиночные пикеты против депутата Слуцкого. Собчак же решила сыграть на опережение и пришла к камерам федеральных тв к 11:30.

> Фото: Алексей Абанин / Дождь pic.twitter.com/Lx1AbMZDQT
>
> — Телеканал Дождь (@tvrain) March 8, 2018

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