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Poland Expels 45 Russian Diplomats for Espionage

By AFP

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The Russian Embassy in Poland. **Ency (CC BY-SA 3.0)**

Poland on Wednesday said it had expelled 45 Russian diplomats for espionage, an allegation immediately dismissed as baseless by Russia's ambassador to Poland.

Interior Minister Mariusz Kaminski made the announcement on Twitter.

"Poland has expelled 45 Russian spies pretending to be diplomats," he wrote. "We are dismantling the Russian special services network in our country."

Russian ambassador to Poland Sergey Andreyev confirmed the expulsions, telling reporters that the individuals concerned had been given five days to leave Poland.

"There are no grounds for these kinds of accusations," he said, adding that Russia reserved the right to take retaliatory measures.

Bilateral diplomatic relations remained in place, he said: "The embassies remain, the ambassadors remain."

Earlier Wednesday, Poland's counter-espionage service ABW had announced that it had detained a Polish national suspected of espionage for Russia's secret services.

"The detainee worked in the archives of Warsaw's registry office," ABW spokesman Stanislaw Zaryn said on Twitter.

"The activity of the suspect posed a threat to both (the) internal and external security of Poland," he added.

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