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## **POLISH RULING COALITION COLLAPSES AMID MEDIA LAW PROTESTS**

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BY ZOSIA WANAT

Polands ruling nationalist coalition collapsed Tuesday after Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki fired the leader of a smaller partner party over disagreements on tax policy and a controversial media law thats set off a fight with the United States.

The fracturing comes a day ahead of a key parliamentary vote on a law that would bar companies from beyond the European Economic Area from owning a majority stake in Polish media companies. Critics say this is largely aimed at the popular TVN broadcaster, owned by Discovery of the U.S., which irritates the government with its independent news coverage. Thousands of protesters took to the streets Tuesday evening to demonstrate against the bill, complaining it endangers press freedom.

Its still unclear if the United Right coalition, led by the Law and Justice (PiS party) can soldier on without the 13 MPs who formally belong to the Accord grouping of Jarosław Gowin.

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