

SAZAS allegedly spied on prominent Slovenians

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Police officers have opened pre-trial proceedings against SAZAS for allegedly illegally following and eavesdropping on the director of URSIL and for allegedly compiling social networking dossiers on several prominent Slovenians.

The drama at the Association of Composers, Authors and Publishers for the Protection of Copyright of Slovenia (SAZAS), which has been charging unreasonably high amounts to associations and schools for playing copyright music, is escalating. The director of the Intellectual Property Office, Jurij Žurej, was allegedly illegally followed and wiretapped on the orders of the association, and police officers have already opened pre-trial proceedings.

According to the indictment, two persons followed Žurej, the director of URSIL, which is responsible for oversight of SAZAS, for three months on the instructions of SAZAS. This surveillance also allegedly led SAZAS to generate social networking schemes of several prominent Slovenians. Thus, SAZAS allegedly compiled entire dossiers on a number of well-known people.



The drama at SAZAS is taking on new dimensions.

Today, Žurej confirmed that he had in fact requested prosecution on Thursday against unknown perpetrator for illegal surveillance, publications and defamation, although the complaint indicates the persons whom he suspects of stalking him on SAZAS's instructions. However, for the time being, he does not want to discuss the names of those involved.

But that is not all. Immediately after the indictment was filed, political actors became involved.

Last Friday, Jožef Školč, the State Secretary of the Government, summoned Žurej to his office for a carpeting. According to the indictment, Školč had facilitated a meeting between Prime Minister Borut Pahor and SAZAS functionaries Zoran Predin, Matjaž Zupan and Jureto Robežnik, who in turn gave Školč a recording of a conversation that had taken place between Žurej and one of SAZAS's subsidiaries.



Jožef Školč is also said to be involved.

Žurej allegedly warned Školč that he had not authorised the recording of this conversation, and that Školč was therefore operating with illegally obtained documents.

But Školč would not be dissuaded, and moreover threatened that *"...it would be embarrassing for the Office if this transcript were to be made public"*.

At that point, Žurej filed another complaint with the police.

Meanwhile, Predin reports that he is not aware of how the recordings were obtained and that there has been no response from Zupan. Školč admitted in a telephone conversation that he had not handed over the transcripts of the unauthorised recordings to the police. When asked whether, as State Secretary, he had therefore even threatened to use the illegally obtained transcripts, or why he was even involved in the dispute between Žurej and SAZAS, Školč appears to have remained eloquently silent.

Original text in Slovenian at:

<https://www.24ur.com/novice/slovenija/szas-naj-bi-vohunil-za-znanimi-ljudmi.html>