



# How Whistleblowers and Journalists Expose Corruption

Vladimir Radomirović, editor-in-chief of Pištaljka

Pištaljka (The Whistle) was set up in 2010 by a group of journalists who were fired from a government-controlled newspaper after blowing the whistle on censorship and conflict of interest. To this day, Pištaljka has published more than 300 investigative stories.



- Pištaljka allows citizens to post anonymous, encrypted tip-offs
- Journalists investigate tip-offs by using the Freedom of Information Law
- Journalists also investigate on their own, *using statements by politicians, public data, etc.*
- Only stories based on documents received through the law are published (added protection)



## • Environment Minister Oliver Dulić

- In December 2010 Pištaljka reveals Dulić's private firm was awarded contracts by 70 budget-financed institutions
- Dulić failed to report contracts to the Anti-Corruption Agency, but the Agency decides not to press charges



- **Defence Minister Dragan Šutanovac**

- In June 2012, based on a tip-off, Pištaljka discovers that Šutanovac is investing into an expensive building in central Belgrade

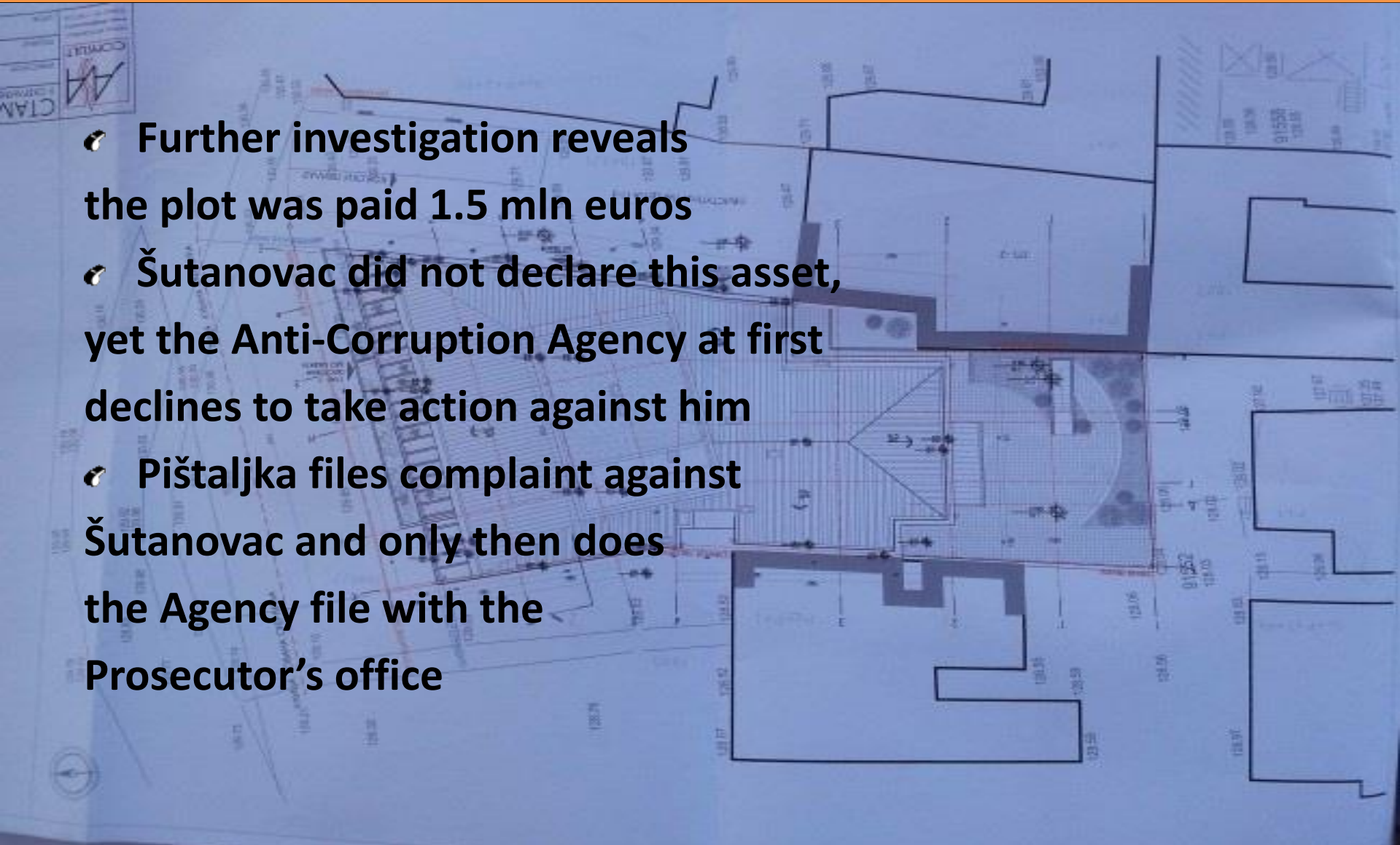
- The story leads to more tip-offs, and it is revealed one of the investors is a Cyprus-based company with links to the Defence Ministry





# Examples

- Further investigation reveals the plot was paid 1.5 mln euros
- Šutanovac did not declare this asset, yet the Anti-Corruption Agency at first declines to take action against him
- Pištaljka files complaint against Šutanovac and only then does the Agency file with the Prosecutor's office



# The Change

- **Journalists work with whistleblowers who want to speak up to present their cases**
- **Bojana Bokorov, Borko Josifovski**
- **Citizens see some action is taken upon their tip-offs**
- **Big media reprint and broadcast Pištaljka's stories**



- **Pištaljka's stories receive attention of a wider audience**
- **Prosecutors encouraged to take action**
- **Whistleblower/journalist connection can serve as a basis of an early-warning system against corruption**





