Jacek Harłukowicz – a Wrocław-based reporter of Gazeta Wyborcza – is being surveilled and smeared by unidentified persons following his investigation into the so-called “Wrocław scheme”.

Since the beginning of 2021, Harłukowicz, along with two reporters of OKO.press and Fundacja Reporterów have been investigating the “Wrocław scheme” – a supposed group of businessmen and politicians loosely associated with the public relations and lobbying agency R4S, which is co-owned by a former spokesman of the ruling Law and Justice Party (PiS). A series of articles resulting from the investigation was published, pointing at alleged corruption and nepotism among state officials involved in the “scheme”.

Following the publication of the articles, allegations appeared on Twitter in April 2021 that Harłukowicz was guilty of sexual harassment and addicted to alcohol. On 14 July 2021, an anonymous open letter to Harłukowicz was published via Wordpress, accusing him of sexual harassment, alcoholism, mobbing and being a member of the “scheme” himself. The letter also stated that Harłukowicz was being followed and recorded. The day after, pictures of Harłukowicz taken near his house appeared on an anonymous Twitter account. A recording of the journalist’s phone call with a source also appeared on YouTube but was later deleted. Harłukowicz believes that the smear, blackmailing and surveillance was instigated by persons who have ties with the “Wrocław scheme”. The Regional Prosecutor’s office has been seized of the matter.