

DHL

In my opinion, Vladimir Putin had authorized my expulsion from Russia, and he probably approved the attempts to extort our assets, but I found it inconceivable that he would allow our officials to steal \$200 million from his own government. I was convinced that as soon as we started the evidence of these crimes with the Russian authorities, they the good guys would get the bad guys and that would be the end of the story. In spite of all that had happened, I still believed that there were some good guys left in Russia. So on **July 23, 2008, we mailed Wing detailed complaints about the tax whistle blower, sending them to every law enforcement and regulatory agency in Russia.**

We also gave the story to the New York Times and to Russia's most prominent independent news outlet, *Izvestia*. The articles were explosive, and the story quickly got picked up widely, both in Russia and internationally.

Several days after the story broke, I was asked by Ekho Moscow, Russia's leading independent radio station, to give a forty-five-minute phone interview. I accepted and, in a live broadcast on July 25, systematically went through the whole ordeal: the raids, the theft of our computers, the false court judgments, the involvement of ex-couriers, the police complicity, and most importantly, the theft of \$200 million of taxpayer money. The interview, Maria Gerasimchik, a veteran reporter who had years of experience with Russian legality and corruption, was seriously shocked. When I had finished he said, "If our broadcast hasn't been switched off, then someone some arrests must be carried out."

I thought so too—except nothing was done. The hours passed in days, and there was nothing. The days passed into weeks, and there was still nothing. It was hard to believe that such a huge story about the theft of government money would elicit no response.

One day there was a response—just after the one I was expecting. On August 21, 2008, during an unusually still and hot morning in London, the phone in my office started to ring. First it was Roger, calling from Florence Duncan, then it was Vladimir Putin's aide, calling from his home office, then it was Edward, calling from his office just outside Moscow. Each of our lawyers had the same message: a man from the Russian Interior Ministry was sending a letter.

Edward's message was the most disturbing. While he wasn't in office, a DHL package arrived at 4:26 pm. Thirty minutes later a huge group of police officers showed up to his workplace to conduct a search. No sooner had they started their search than they "found" the DHL package and seized it. As soon as they had it in their possession, they concluded their raid and left.

Obviously, the whole episode was constructed around the arrival of his mysterious package. Thankfully, Edward's secretary had the foresight to make a copy of the waybill and faxed it to us. We were shocked when we logged on to the DHL website, entered a waybill number, and got the return address for the package: Gull House, 3-5 Gullion Square, London W1F 9BB.

— The address in London.

— Of course, it hadn't actually been sent from our office. The waybill, though, showed it had been sent from a DHL depot in London, so we immediately contacted London's Metropolitan Police and explained the story. Later that day, Detective Sergeant Keith Davies, a young officer in a leather jacket and aviator sunglasses, appeared into our office.

— I introduced myself and asked whether he had had any luck figuring out who'd sent the parcel.

— He shrugged and told a DVD case of his jacket. "No, but I've p