Charges brought against KO website

Attempt to ban solidarity with the resistance – critique of the Federal Republic of Germany as lèse-majesté – political trial looms

Statement (short version), 23/11/26

The Frankfurt am Main Public Prosecutor's Office has brought charges against the operator of the KO website, Philipp Kissel. The indictment lists eleven sections which are alleged to contain criminal content.

The sections cited are 140 (endorsement of criminal offences), 90a (defamation of the German state), 86 (dissemination of propaganda by banned organisations) and 86a (use of symbols of banned organisations).

By invoking criminal law, the government seeks to combat political positions that advocate resistance and oppose genocide.

This crackdown on freedom of expression prevents even the most rudimentary form of understanding and political discourse. It must therefore be jointly prevented by progressive and democratic forces.

The criminalisation of 7 October

At the heart of the charges lies 7 October 2023. The KO's solidarity with the Palestinian people's resistance operation is interpreted as approval of criminal offences, without even naming a single specific offence that is alleged to have been approved.

The uprising of 7 October, however, is a political event of international significance. The imperialist states condemn it as terrorism, whilst the forces of the liberation movements worldwide regard it as a justified and successful blow against the occupying power.

The KO's solidarity with the resistance as a whole and in all its forms is part of freedom of expression and public debate. It stands in opposition to the endless chain of crimes committed by the occupying power and its supporters.

The KO has also welcomed the military actions taken by the Yemeni Ansarallah against genocide, as required under international law. The Public Prosecutor's Office regards this as condoning a criminal offence, in stark contrast to Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Quotation prohibited

The public prosecutor's office also intends to punish the quoting of a Hamas document. In it, Hamas states that Palestinian fighters were instructed to attack only soldiers and other armed forces and to spare civilians. The public prosecutor's office therefore has no intention of addressing the question of what happened on that day, any more than Israel, which to this day refuses to allow an independent investigation.

Opposing the ban is forbidden

An interview with former Samidoun member Zaid Abdulnasser constitutes, in the public prosecutor's view, the dissemination of propaganda by a banned organisation, because he opposes the ban on Samidoun. This is the public prosecutor's dream: if something is banned,

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then no one is allowed to talk about it, let alone oppose it.

Lèse-majesté revisited

According to the public prosecutor's office, an article opposing the rehabilitation of fascism in the Federal Republic of Germany constitutes 'defamation of the state'. This is because the article states that for the Federal Republic of Germany, 'no crime is too brutal and no terror too radical when it comes to expanding its own profits and claims to world power'. One could not be more overt in seeking censorship.

The public prosecutor's office also seeks to ban the statement that the Federal Republic of Germany and the other Western states are the true terrorists. By applying Section 90a in further cases, the public prosecutor's office reveals that its aim is to muzzle anti-fascist views.

Political trial

The KO is looking forward to a political trial. Lawyer Matthias Seipel has applied for the opening of the main hearing to be dismissed, as the indictment cites exclusively publicly accessible texts which are only rendered criminal acts through the public prosecutor's interpretation.

However, dissenting opinions in particular must be specially protected. The KO is not concerned with freedom of expression in general. There should be no freedom of expression for genocide, Zionism, fascism and other forms of contempt for humanity.

Further publications and information will follow in the near future.

You can find the full version of the statement on our website.

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