Rickrolling SchÃ¤uble

Thursday 4 February 2010 00:07

How hard is it to just not try to buy some stolen data, do not collect maybe about a couple of hundred million euros, and show the world you're serious about not being nazis and communists anymore? First of all I'm surprised there even is a discussion about this, when it's clearly a holocaust of wrong.

What it boils down to is that some people in the German government think they can get away with everything the constitution doesn't let them do as long as they can pay criminals to do it for them, and they don't mind if those criminals operate outside of Germany, breaking laws in countries Germany pretends to respect as sovereign states. The whole neo–conservative crap Guantanamo Bay and other loopholes are based on to just make things legally complicated enough for not to bright politicians to enter the level of "If you believe it yourself it's not really lying". Given the possibilities of this approach I won't be surprised if there would be a perfectly legal way to get the same result as some genocide, but without something that is really legally technically genocide. So there's nothing wrong with that then?

Because there also seems to be no discussion about whether it's a good idea or not. There's a lot of legal people discussing it as if when it turns out to be legal to do it that automatically means it's the right thing to do. So even if the highest court would say it's completely legal to go on with it, what's the problem? The problem is that to obtain the stolen data you'll have to deal with the criminal who stole the data. If it was a German spy who's just on the payroll of the German secret service and probably swore some oath and plays by the rules it would be a different story, but how can we be so sure what we'll get will be as valuable as we want to believe? The seller is a criminal who's just in it for the money and if Germany is serious about fighting crime how exactly does this deal go down with the seller not running the risk of getting caught and we're not running the risk of buying a copy of "Never gonna give you up" for two and a half million euros?

Whatever data is obtained this way is tainted data. All these people claiming that not buying the data would let anyone rich enough to be able to afford a Swiss bank account get away with their crimes don't seem to realize that the really rich maybe have already paid the seller to have their data removed from the list. What are we going to do about that? And things get even more interesting if the seller likes to filter the data in a way the German government would never be allowed to do. If it turned out there were only Jewish names on the list, would the German government still be happy to vigorously prosecute them, or would they then realize they are then just the tool of some criminal who set them up with tainted data, which was all perfectly legal? And wouldn't that make it perfectly legal for Germany to only go after the Jews?

Apparently for a couple of hundred million euros they would. It's amazing how the amount of money involved combined with how much they think they need it plays a huge role in the discussion. Germany seems to no longer be able to afford to live within the laws of it's own constitution. They screwed up again, they need resources to keep their citizens happy, so they invade a neighboring country. And it's all presented as if this will at once solve the whole financial crisis Germany is currently in. But we're only talking about an amount of money the size of a single Elbphilharmonie. It makes no sense to sell out the constitution for peanuts like that.

And we're only talking about taxes, not war criminals or child raping priests. Unless you're aiming for everyone to be equally poor you'd better pay attention to where the tax is still coming from. If someone paid one million in taxes, but was supposed to pay 1.1 million, can you afford to get that last 0.1 million and then next time miss out on the 1.1 million altogether because that tax payer then moved to a more friendly country? It's not like every German with a Swiss bank account doesn't pay any taxes at all, so the end result of trying to get more money could actually be having less money. Unless you shoot the rich while they try to leave the country.

Those who want to make a deal with a criminal also don’t seem to realize this behavior triggers a whole system of crime. Without Germany creating a market for stolen data the value of Swiss bank data isn’t that high. But by offering millions for it to criminals suddenly any IT−guy who might have access to this data has to fear for his children being kidnapped and being asked for the data as ransom. So how many kidnapped Swiss children is Germany willing to accept to get to a few billion euros?

Or can Germany just claim to be stupid enough to not realize what was going on again? The scary thing is that a lot of people involved really seem to be that stupidÂ¤

by Roland van Ipenburg http://www.xs4all.nl/~ipenburg/blog/posts/dull/2010/02/04/rickrolling−schaeuble/