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It's been an astonishing couple of days for German judges. Well, "astonishing" if you've been living in a cave for the last four years.

Many of you likely already know that satirist and playwright (and frequent OffG contributor) CJ Hopkins is <u>being</u> <u>prosecuted</u> in Germany for "disseminating propaganda, the contents of which are intended to further the aims of a former National Socialist organization."

All because the cover of his book has a swastika on it.

Needless to say, the charges are absurd. Insultingly so. You can read CJ's first-hand account of this nonsense <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

Anyone who isn't a) stupid or b) delusional can plainly see these charges have *nothing* to do with a stock-image swastika, and *everything* to do with the content of the book. In short, they are politically motivated charges brought against an author for criticizing the state. The very essence of dystopian tyranny.

...and yesterday he was convicted.

He now faces 60 days in prison or a 3600 Euro fine.

That's case one, and as we say one you are likely familiar

with if you're regular readers.

Something you probably haven't heard is that, just this morning, a different German court sentenced a former judge to two years in prison.

His crime? Ruling that mask mandates in schools were not constitutional.

The case dates back to April 8th 2021, when Weimar District Family Court judge Christiaan Dettmar ruled that two schools in the district a) could not enforce mask mandates, b) must continue in-person classes and c) could not force pupils to test for "Covid".

From <u>Human Rights Blog</u>:

The court case was a child protection case under to § 1666 paragraph 1 and 4 of the German Civil Code (BGB), which a mother had initiated for her two sons, aged 14 and 8 respectively, at the local Family Court. She had argued that her children were being physically, psychologically and pedagogically damaged without any benefit for the children or third parties. At the same time, she claimed this constituted a violation of a range of rights of the children and their parents under the law, the German constitution (Grundgesetz or Basic Law) and international conventions.

After listening to testimony from expert witnesses, the judge ruled in favour of the mother, writing in his verdict:

These are the risks [to mask mandates]. The children are not only endangered in their mental, physical and psychological well-being by the obligation to wear face masks during school hours and to keep their distance from each other and from other persons, but they are also already being harmed. At the same time, this violates numerous rights of the children and their parents under the law, the constitution and international conventions.

Two weeks after handing down this ruling, his home and office were raided by the police and his mobile phone was seized.

And now, two years later, he was found guilty of "judicial misconduct" and initially given two years in prison (the court has <u>since suspended the sentence</u>). "Judicial Misconduct", for simply disagreeing with the government.

Free speech is the first and most vital liberty, without it no one is truly free. An independent judiciary is a must to preserve any kind of justice, judges who simply nod along with government edicts are the building blocks of authoritarian states.

The voice of the people and the power of the courts – ideally – work together to hold the government to account.

And yet, whether in the judiciary or the arts, the German legal system is now a machine for criminalizing and punishing dissent of any kind.

...I'd make a comparison to another German government that used to function in a similar way, but I *really* can't afford a 4000 euro fine.

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