

Eurocrats Trying To KILL This German Journalist (with his Family) | Hüseyin Dogru

This is a grave case of political punishment without due process. I speak with journalist Hüseyin Dođru, who says EU sanctions turned him into a non-person inside Germany. The discussion covers the lack of trial or hearing, the struggle to challenge sanctions in court, frozen bank access, the seizure of his wife's accounts, and the danger this creates for his children. They also discuss the silence of major media and unions, the wider use of sanctions and debanking against dissent, and the need for public protest and political pressure. Links: Hüseyin Dođru on X: <https://x.com/hussedogru> Neutrality Studies substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> (Opt in for Academic Section from your profile settings: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com/s/academic>) Merch: <https://neutralitystudies-shop.fourthwall.com> Donation: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Introduction 00:00:59 Sanctioned inside Germany 00:07:07 German court and blocked payments 00:12:02 Wife accounts frozen 00:22:23 Fear and the test case claim 00:26:31 Media unions and silence 00:33:06 Courts politics and no remedy 00:42:13 Wider crackdown across Europe 00:46:05 Political resistance and final appeal

#Pascal

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies. This is Pascal, and I'm joined again today by Mr. Hussein Dogru. He is the first and only German citizen inside Germany sanctioned by the European Union on the Russia sanctions list. And there are some updates to talk about. Hussein, welcome.

#Hüseyin Dogru

Thank you for having me again, Pascal.

#Pascal

Well, thank you very much for giving us this update, because your case is quite unique. Although there are other people who are sanctioned—most famously, of course, Jacques Baud, a Swiss citizen in Brussels, and another compatriot of mine, Nathalie Jamb, also a Swiss citizen—but she's outside of the EU. She's in Africa at the moment and cannot go back home. You are the one case where we've got a German citizen, with only German nationality, inside Germany, and they're trying to take everything away from you. Can you maybe give us a very short rundown of when this started and what it meant for you personally?

#Hüseyin Dogru

I was sanctioned on the 20th of May, 2025—last year. Soon it's going to be the anniversary. Okay. It was under the, as you said, 17th Russian sanctions package, allegedly for having close ties to the Russian state as well as the so-called Russian state propaganda apparatus. And that was supposedly explained by my coverage of the genocide in Palestine, as well as the crackdown on pro-Palestinian demonstrations in Europe and social protests across Europe.

And the German government—because we believe the German government is behind this and pushed for the sanctions—explains that my coverage of these three topics, as well as the well-known Humboldt University occupation by pro-Palestinian activists in Berlin, is creating discord among European Union citizens, ethnic discord, and supposedly undermining the stability of the European Union. Just this news coverage. Therefore, according to their logic, only Russia can benefit from it. And that's their proof that I'm a Russian disinformation propagandist or actor, as the German government now says.

#Pascal

So, yeah. And of course, then sanctioning you—I mean, this was decided by the EU Council, not even the Commission, but by the Council that included you in this package of the Russia sanctions list. The main accusation is that you've been covering Hamas and so on, and that you're supposedly Hamas-friendly or whatever, just because you reported on it. And that hit you without a trial, right? There's no trial, no hearing. You were never even warned. And then, all of a sudden, basically all your civil liberties—all the rights you have as a citizen, including the right to have a bank account and free movement—are gone overnight, right?

#Hüseyin Dogru

Yes. I mean, sanctions are extrajudicial—that's how they're designed. So, as you said, 27 foreign ministers come together behind closed doors. They have a possible file like this and then decide, all at once, the entire package. There is no hearing. There is no court. There is no defense. There is no access to evidence. There is nothing. So it is technically extrajudicial punishment—a decision without a trial. And they put you in a situation where you have to prove your innocence. It's not that they provide any proof of your guilt. They reverse the burden of proof in that case, which is very hard, because you can't prove that you're innocent.

#Pascal

But they're saying that everything is fine, that your human rights and legal rights are safeguarded because you have the right to appeal to the European Court of Justice, right? And because they graciously give you that route, they keep it open. That's why everything is supposedly fine—fair, square, and legal. But they can already take things away and start the punishment immediately. Although they say it's not a punishment, right? It's an "educational measure." You're just being disciplined. Can you speak to that a little bit?

#Hüseyin Dogru

So, the European Union itself, on their website, describes sanctions as a tool to change the non-illegal behavior of a person. That means, I want to change your legal behavior—you didn't do something criminal, you didn't do something wrong, but you're doing something I don't like. And then it goes further, saying they want to change that non-illegal behavior so the person promotes the foreign policy and interests of the European Union. That is the definition of sanctions according to the European Union. So that itself is a problem. Then they say, you have the right to appeal, you have the right to go to court—but at the same time, I can't pay my lawyers.

How do I have access to the judicial system if I can't pay my lawyers to make use of that right? We're living in a system where you need money for everything, but I don't have access to the money. Now, the other funny thing is, when I try to sue in Germany, the German government says, "That has nothing to do with us—it's the European Union." Then, when we go to the European Union, which we've done and are now waiting for a decision, the problem there is... I mean, we're waiting for a decision in the next two to three months from the European General Court, which is one step before the European Court of Justice. They could decide on two levels. One is: was any law violated?

If they go that way, I will definitely win. Or the second way could be procedural mistakes. The problem is, there are no procedural mistakes, because that's how the EU works right now—whether you like it or not. They built their own mechanism, which isn't based on a court decision; it's based on decisions by politicians and diplomats. It's outside the judicial process. So therefore, it is legal. And as former European Court of Justice judge Nina Koldet said in a legal expert report on my case, these sanctions are violating every single law in European member states. Even she said we don't have any means to control these decisions—it's outside the judicial system. That makes it hard for me to fight this.

#Pascal

Hey, very brief intermission because I was recently banned from YouTube. And although I'm back, this could happen again at any time. So please consider subscribing not only here but also to my mailing list on Substack—that's pascallottaz.substack.com. The link's in the description below. And now, back to the video. Yeah, but this is actually where a recent decision by a local German court is so important, because people need to understand how this interplay works between the EU level and the German, the national level—they constantly interact. And actually, the EU level really kind of undermines the entire constitutional structure of Germany, where the constitution is supposed to protect you from state overreach. But now the state says, "That's not us, it's the one above us," so it's no longer in their purview. Can you tell us what happened in that recent decision, which you unfortunately lost?

#Hüseyin Dogru

Yeah, so what happened was that my bank, or rather the institution holding my account, didn't allow me to use the money that had been granted to me by the German government in the context of implementing the sanctions.

#Pascal

Like 506 euros in humanitarian minimum funds.

#Hüseyin Dogru

Yes, I have 506 euros per month for humanitarian reasons, which I need to pay my rent, buy food, feed my children—everything—which is impossible. I also have to pay my bills because I have contracts from before the sanctions, and now I'm stuck in debt. The bank refused to process these payments, and I got warnings from the companies saying I owe them money. They even threatened to take me to court. Technically, you can end up in jail in Germany if you can't pay something or have to pay higher fees. So we appealed to the court and said, "Please intervene, because these are my basic necessities—like telecommunication and other things."

The court decided that they can't and won't force the bank to carry out these transactions, because they don't see them as necessary or as basic needs. Then my lawyers and I said, "Okay, let's say that's true—but I'm suffering financial damage, more financial risk, and even possible criminal investigations because I can't pay these fees, which could lead to jail." And the court said in their decision, "We understand there will be negative impacts because of this, but that's part of the sanctions." So basically, they're saying, "We don't care if there's a negative impact." Why is that important? Because in the decision they said—that's the most important thing.

This is part of the sanctions. So why is that important? What you also pointed out is that European law or decisions override national law and decisions. The European Council—the decisions taken there—or the Parliament, the European member states have to implement those, like sanctions. So I'm in a loophole. If I want to sue someone in Germany, they refer me to the European Union. But if I try to sue the European Union, or the Commission, or the Council—wherever—in certain matters, they start referring me back to the German government, for example. We appealed the sanctions, we submitted our case, and the lawyers of the European Council made their defense.

In their defense, they say two very important things. First, because of these alleged Russian ties, they say, "We don't need to prove that he has Russian ties—he can't prove that he doesn't." They literally wrote that on paper. And the second thing is, the negative impacts that Mr. Dockru is describing in his defense have nothing to do with the sanctions, because this is happening in Germany. And we're like, "Yeah, but these things are happening because of the sanctions." So I'm in a legal black hole where the law can be used against me, but I can't use my basic constitutional rights to defend myself, because they can always refer to the sanctions.

#Pascal

Yeah. Yeah, they found a way to actually dispose of all 27 member states' basic constitutional protections of the individual by just making this part of EU foreign policy—an EU foreign policy decision. And although in each member state the local courts might take different decisions, I mean, by now what's happening to you is very clear: the German local courts are more than happy to just uphold that and wash their hands in innocence, like Pontius Pilate. It's like, "Not me, it wasn't me, it was the other one." It's absolutely disgusting. But now, recently, the humanitarian situation for you has gotten even worse. Can you give us that update, please?

#Hüseyin Dogru

So we already had—well, at least I had—no access to money. My wife's accounts were working because she's not sanctioned; she has nothing to do with that. But her savings were frozen from day one of the sanctions. We tried to appeal that, and we made a big fuss in the media about it. Some friendly journalists, or at least the few who were covering it, reported on it. And every time I gained some momentum in the media, the German government escalated things. The latest escalation is that they froze all of my wife's bank accounts. And again, she's not sanctioned. She's not even part of this process.

#Pascal

And who did that? Did the bank do that on its own, like an overkill? No, there was no court decision for that.

#Hüseyin Dogru

This was a decision by the sanctions implementation institution. We have something like that in Germany—Zentralstation für Sanktionen, the Central Station for Sanctions. It's the body that, I think, is subordinate to the Ministry of Finance in Germany, or maybe the Ministry of Economy, whatever it's called. And this is not a court decision; they just decided that. The reason given is basically twofold. First, they claim that I have control over my wife's money and that we're trying to circumvent sanctions through her account. And their "evidence" or indications are, first, that she's married to me and that we have three children. That fact alone is treated as proof—that we're married, that we're close to each other.

And the second reason is that, because of the sanctions, my car insurance was canceled. Every single insurance—almost every single one—was canceled because I'm sanctioned. I don't have rights anymore. My wife took out car insurance for our shared car, by the way. It's our car, not just mine. It's registered in my name, because you can't register a car under two people. And they say, "Oh, until now, Mr. Dooku was paying for the last four or five years, apparently, all the car insurance, and suddenly his wife is paying it. This is very suspicious. We don't understand why. That must be

sanction circumvention.” And I’m like, maybe I’m sanctioned—that’s why I can’t pay it. They’re using these two things. And there’s also a part of sexism here, which is very important.

I didn’t even think about it until people started commenting on it. They say things like, “Democratic Germany can’t believe that a woman has self-control over her own money—it must be the man again.” Which is quite funny, because here in Europe we’re always lecturing about women’s rights. But when it comes to this part, it’s the German government that’s going backward, fighting against women’s rights. So that’s kind of the problem we have. You know, what we’re facing is that in the past we could somehow survive because my wife had access to her money. Right now, it’s almost impossible, because my wife, me, our two newborns, and our six, almost seven-year-old child have only 506 euros for the entire month. Nothing else. We can’t pay our rent.

#Pascal

Because you don’t have anything left in the bank account.

#Hüseyin Dogru

I get it all. I have my money in my bank. It’s my money, by the way—it’s not something the government gives me. I can take out 506 euros in cash, no more. I can’t transfer it. I have to use this app—I don’t have a card—and scan it in a grocery shop, and then they can pay me out. Not even at the ATM, not even at the bank. That’s not possible for me. So we have only 506 euros left. And when this decision was made, it was four or five days ago, before the last week of the month. At that moment, we had only 104 euros, and we needed to buy groceries.

And now tomorrow I need to pay my rent, which I can’t. So that’s the situation. What the German government—well, it’s an institution, but still part of the government—is doing now is basically putting the lives of my babies in danger, because I can’t feed them. I literally can’t feed them. And the other part of this escalation, which happened a bit earlier, is that every country has a different constitution, a different law. So they need to adapt the sanction implementation according to their own constitutions. In Germany, that was decided, I think, around mid-January. Yeah.

The sanction implementation law—I think it was the 15th or 16th of January—is unique in itself. Nowhere else in Europe is it as aggressive as in Germany. My lawyer even made a joke; he said they basically did it just for me, so now it’s in the history books. What they did was escalate it so much that even support for my babies—if you come to my door and give them nappies or baby food—you could, in theory, and that’s very important, be sentenced to up to ten years in prison, just for supporting babies in a humanitarian catastrophe. They don’t explicitly say that in the law, but it’s written so vaguely that almost anything can fall under it and be sanctioned.

So, when last Friday this seizure of my wife’s bank accounts happened, a lot of people called—um, some friends, the German politician, as well as my lawyer and her assistants. They came to me and

said, "Can we do something?" And my lawyer said, "Don't. You're not allowed." They were all shocked. And maybe this is also a message to all your viewers, in every single language you're publishing in: everyone is writing to me right now—"How can we help you? How can we help you? Please tell me, how can we help you?" First of all, I'm very grateful for all these messages, but you can't send things to me or money, because that will be used against you and against me.

So that's why I can't reply to those emails or comments on social media—because they could use that to sanction me even more. Now, the last thing I want to mention, which is the most dangerous part, is that every time the government escalates, there's always a next step. We're thinking, how far can this government go? They can't go very far. I mean, we're seeing them helping the genocide in Palestine, supporting the aggressions against Iran, backing it politically, destabilizing everything. What are we thinking about Iran or other countries? Germany is an aggressive nation now, militarizing. So they'll do everything that fits into what's happening right now.

So now we have a situation—you know it maybe, Pascal—in Germany we have this, maybe also in Austria, *Kinderschutz*, it's like child protection. There's a law for it, which is very, very important in these countries, and it's good to have that. What it means is that if you can't provide for your child, if you can't keep your child safe, healthy, and everything, the German government can take away your children and put them in safe custody. So, in theory, I'm in a situation like that, where they've put me and my wife in a position where we can't provide for our children. And if they want to escalate, they could come now and take away our children, because they have the legal grounds.

#Pascal

Especially in a situation where you go on podcasts and actually say that you don't have the possibility anymore to care for each other. But what else are you supposed to do? Are you just supposed to pretend everything is fine? Obviously not, right? So they put you in a situation where you end up kind of producing self-incriminating statements. And the situation they've created gives them the grounds to do even harsher and worse things to you. Yeah, I mean, I think that's part of the strategy as well, because they're sanctioning me.

#Hüseyin Dogru

They're trying to break me. They're trying to break my family. And they're attacking me. I mean, first they targeted me, then they targeted my wife, and now they're literally targeting our children. They're targeting children here. I mean, we need to understand that now. But there's a reason behind it—they're creating a precedent case so others get scared. And people are scared in Germany. Journalists are scared in Germany. If you look at the German media landscape, there's slowly an awakening. People are starting to report, but it's always the same ones—usually the *Berliner Zeitung*, *Junge Welt*, and Florian Warweg, the very well-known journalist. I'm also very afraid for him; he might be sanctioned as well, because he actually does journalism, and Germany doesn't like that right now.

And every single journalist is silent at the German press conferences, for example. I think it was yesterday when Florian Warweg asked, at the German press conference, the spokesperson for the German finance or economy ministry: "Explain my situation. The children are in danger. How can you justify that?" The spokesperson said, "We are not aware of this situation. That's something new for us. We need to look into it." And all the other journalists—they didn't ask a single question. And this is the effect: they don't need to censor anyone anymore because they're censoring themselves. And that is the strategy. The more we hurt Hussein Doku, the more the others will be silent. And that's why my case is not just my case—it's technically their case, because they're coming after them.

#Pascal

Do you think, you know, at some level we all just have to guess—but is it really a group of people who have you in mind when they do these things? Or are we facing a situation where it's basically an EU–German kind of bureaucratic overreach monster, where one cog just plays into the next, and at the bottom your human rights are shattered on the ground? All the parts do exactly what they're supposed to do, but they do it on overdrive, and then everything is destroyed. Or do you think there are really a couple of key players who deliberately want to put you out there, nail you to the cross, and tell everybody, "Look, that's what happens to you if you go that route"?

#Hüseyin Dogru

I think it's a symbiosis of both. I mean, as we know, sanctions were always designed against people outside.

#Pascal

And the thing is, they're designed to impact the system, right? So the system itself starts exerting that force. That's what's happening to you, actually, right?

#Hüseyin Dogru

Yeah, yeah. So, sanctions—this is the first time they're being used inward, against someone like me. I mean, there are other European citizens who've been sanctioned, but they're not in Europe right now. So I'm kind of like a testing ground: how far can we go, what's possible, what do we need to fix in our national laws to be able to sanction inward? That's what Germany is doing right now. How are they going to implement that? How are they going to prepare the judicial side of everything so it can be applied in every single country? And I'm like a testing field, because Europe itself—I think it's not just a German thing. I mean, Germany and France are the driving forces in Europe, politically and economically as well. And we know that Germany is also pushing for the militarization of Europe. They're very eager to move toward what they really want—this war against Russia.

Whatever we think about Russia, we can see that the European economy is being destroyed—especially the German economy. I mean, if you look at the news over the last two years, the heart of German industry, the car industry, is crashing. They can't compete anymore. Van der Leyen said a couple of months ago that the civil industry needs to be able to produce for, or be part of, the military industry. And now, what does Volkswagen do? They've decided to produce armored vehicles. What do we see with Rheinmetall? They're expanding and exporting—and they're the big winners. So they're preparing for war. They're preparing for militarism. They're preparing for aggression outside. But that aggression is also turning inward now as well. Not only in Germany—maybe Germany is just the best example because of its history and because it's one of the leading countries in Europe.

But this is a process in Europe. And if you look at who's leading Europe, that's again the Germans. I mean, look at von der Leyen, look at whoever. Ideologically, it's there. So it's testing with me, but preparing all the other countries as well—not to have any opposition in the future, not to have critical journalists in the future, not to have critical people on the streets in the future. Let's make them scared with the precedent case, because it's easy. A) he has a foreign name, even though he's German. They still pretend, even today, that I'm a Turkish citizen, even though I'm just German—still, to this day. He has this "Russia" label, this "terror propagandist supporter" label. It's easy. It's acceptable. And let's see how far we can go.

#Pascal

I mean, it's very sad for me to see how some quarters of Germany react to this. I just read that—you're part of two journalistic unions in Germany, right?—and neither of them thinks your case is worth protesting.

#Hüseyin Dogru

Yeah, I'm a member of Verdi, which is one of the biggest trade unions here, and of their journalists' union as well—the German Journalists' Union, DJU—and the German Journalists' Verband, the association. Association, exactly. So people need to know: before I was sanctioned, there was an entire media campaign against me. "He's Russian, he's this, he's that, terrorist supporter, Jew hater," and so on. That was led by several journalists in Germany and several newspapers—one of them supposedly left-wing, which it's not. And journalist Nicholas Potter spread rumors, spread allegations, started a defamation campaign—who, by the way, just accepted a journalist prize from an Israeli weapons lobby organization in Germany—but accused me of being a Russia state-funded journalist.

So they, the trade unions, jumped on that, supported these claims, and campaigned against me—publicly as well. They criminalized me and never once talked to me. Never. So after I got sanctioned, I contacted these people—nothing. They stripped me of my press cards and accreditations. And the

last thing was that the DJU, my trade union, or representatives of it, were asked by a German journalist, "What do you think about the case of Hussein Dooku? He's now in a humanitarian situation. Do you share what is happening to him, or do you agree with it?" They said, "We are sharing the assessment of the German Foreign Ministry—kind of like, we are against Russian disinformation. As long as the opinion of the German Foreign Ministry does not change, ours will not change either." So you have a journalists' trade union that should be critical.

Every single journalists' trade union in the world should always be critical of their governments. It doesn't matter if it's left, right—whatever country it is—because that's the heart of democracy. Journalism is a tool that the government should be afraid of. But now these journalists, as well as the trade unions, are supporting that side of it. And that kind of reminds me of what happened in Germany in the past. In the '30s, we called it **Gleichschaltung**. I don't know how you translate that into English—technically, during the fascist Nazi era, everything was synchronized. Yeah, synchronization. And this is part of that, where new trade unions criminalize. And there's a political reason behind it, because when it comes to Israel, that's the red line for them. You don't criticize Israel.

#Pascal

It's just quite insane. So this process of synchronization—it's not as if the Foreign Ministry had a direct arm and was threatening people in that trade union. It's another phenomenon. And, you know, maybe it's not a coincidence that it's the German language that creates these kinds of difficult-to-translate words. The other one here is **vorausseilender Gehorsam**—to obey, to obey in advance, advanced obeying.

#Pascal

Which is also a very German-language thing—like saying, "No, no, no, let me try to figure out what the authorities want. And before they tell me, I'll already implement that so I'm always on their good side." So this is a typical case of what's happening here, and how all the machinery—beyond the legal machinery—starts really producing absolutely horrible outcomes downstream. Yeah.

#Hüseyin Dogru

Yeah, I mean, if you look at these trade unions—trade unions are supposed to be independent, not connected to parties. But if you really look at which trade unions have influence, it's like one side is the Social Democrats and the other side is the Christian Democrats who kind of control it. There's a lot of lobbying going on, a lot of lobby work by politicians there. And then it's hard to have a trade union that actually does its work.

I mean, the job of a trade union is to protect your union members, right? To protect the workers, to protect the universe—well, to protect your journalists, whatever it is. Rather than doing that... I

mean, they don't have to like me, that's okay. It's good that we have different opinions. But at least come and talk to me, look at the evidence first. You're a journalist—you're supposed to be critical, you're supposed to talk to the other side, you have the obligation, the responsibility, to try to be as objective as possible, okay? And look at the evidence. It's not evidence-based. They don't even say, "We don't have to look at it." They just say, "Don't even show us that."

#Pascal

What they're doing right now—it's so nasty on so many levels. I actually got a couple of emails saying, "Pascal, you need to be careful with Hussein Dogru, because he's put out a few things in the past that are highly questionable in his medium." And I had to tell them, look, the second you do that, you fall for it. If you start telling people that this person—because he put something out that's legal and fair and square but maybe questionable—if you fall into that trap and start saying, "Yeah, look, he can't be completely clean," then you've already lost.

But if you do that, then you've fallen for it. Because again, if you did something illegal, there would be all the means of the state and criminal investigations to prove that and put you behind bars the legal way. But there isn't—hence going the extrajudicial route. And if you fall for that trap, then you fall into this kind of "ah, there must be something" narrative of the other side. Of course.

#Hüseyin Dogru

I mean, that's what Germany did. Germany couldn't silence me. Germany couldn't put me on trial. They knew no court, no German law would punish me here. That's not possible, because press freedom, according to the law, is very well protected—like freedom of speech or whatever.

#Pascal

Yeah, for good reasons.

#Hüseyin Dogru

Yeah, for good reasons. We have the history for that here. That's why they transferred it to the European Union—because there's no judicial way for that. They just decided. They have the right to just decide it, and that's why they're doing it. I think that's the most dangerous tool here. It's a unique tool that Europe created, and it goes back to 2012, 2013, you know. That's the monster that was created, and it's working. They see, "Oh, that's working—we don't need the courts anymore." I mean, I'm going to give you another example of how courts are not really important for the European member states anymore, or for Germany anymore. Two examples.

There's one—well, I mean, there's this international arrest warrant for Netanyahu, right? Right. Germany said, "We will not obey that." It's like, wait, you're a signatory to it, you have to. And the

second thing is, there are some cases of Russians who were sanctioned, and the European Court of Justice overturned those sanctions. Still, for three, four, five years now, the European Council and the member states have refused to respect that court decision—the highest court in Europe—and they haven't lifted the sanctions on those people. So the question for me is, why should I go to court if you don't respect it anyway? And what is your court's legitimacy to judge me right now if you don't even obey the law?

#Pascal

Yeah, I think, if I got it right, the point there is that whenever the European Court of Justice rules on the listing—the reason for the listing—that's the only thing they can rule on. They can just say the reason for the listing isn't factually correct, and therefore the person has to be removed from the list. But what they do is just change the reason. They give a different reason and leave it on there. And the court is actually kind of pissed about that, if I'm correctly informed. They're basically saying, "Look, this undermines our power to check you."

But still, up to now, they just do that. They change the reasoning and say, like, "Court, you have to go through it again, you have to do your whole judgment thing again," which is a joke. And that leads to the question: what can you actually do in practice? I mean, there's one more court that would be open to you, but it's more of a moral court than anything else—the human rights route, either in Strasbourg, right? The European Court of Human Rights, although there are problems with that, or within the United Nations, where there's a system as well. Did you think about that?

#Hüseyin Dogru

So our strategy is—well, the problem is you can't be in several courts at the same time. You have to go step by step. Right now, we're at the European General Court in Luxembourg, I think it is. We're waiting for the decision, and we think it's going to be negative. They can decide in two ways: one is by law—like, does it violate any law? If so, I'd win. The other is on procedural mistakes, and in that case, I'd lose. They're going to decide on a procedural mistake because it's a political case.

#Pascal

Because they'll just say, like, all procedures were followed, there's no contract that overrides another one, so it's all fine—go ahead.

#Hüseyin Dogru

Yeah, all fine. Because the political environment doesn't allow anything else. And I think one of the people you interviewed said once—I don't even remember who that was, you're interviewing so many people lately—he said it needs political courage. Some judges would have to overturn these sanctions, which are illegal, but the courage isn't there. It's also dangerous for them. And now, if

they decide negatively, we're going to the European Court of Justice, which is the highest court. That takes again one, two, maybe three years. Until then, I'm still under sanctions. We're in this loop—possibly with my wife's stuff also frozen. After that, we can go to the European Court of Human Rights or the UN, etc., etc. But that's a long way. The other thing people don't realize is that we're living in a system where you can fight for your freedom only if you have the money for it. Because a court case—until it's done—can go up to 150, 200, even 300,000 euros. So how the hell should I pay that if I'm not even allowed to work?

#Pascal

Did you—this is a purely technical question—but what happens when people don't give you money but pay your contracts? What if somebody decides to pay the rent for the house you're living in? They're not giving the money to you; they're paying for that thing. Is that—what was that?

#Hüseyin Dogru

It's not allowed, because they can say Hussein Doku is benefiting financially from that. Ah, yeah.

#Pascal

You're not allowed to benefit. It's not that you're not allowed to receive money—you're just not allowed to benefit.

#Hüseyin Dogru

Benefit. That's the word there—benefit. I mean, one could say, yeah, the contract is in Hussein Doku's wife's name, which is... even that you can't do. Because then, through a third party, I'm benefiting. That's the new German law, which is unique. In other countries, I'm not sure—I don't want to say something wrong—but as far as I know, families can get stuff. In Germany, it's not possible. So you're asking about the rent. I'll just give an example: you can't even give diapers to my child. Forget us. You know, a diaper is very clear—it's for the child. I mean, I'm not going to walk around with a diaper here. I'm not benefiting from that. So everything is possible now, and the whole aim is to scare. So... but there are—because again, that's the topic—how can we support?

#Pascal

Yeah, exactly.

#Hüseyin Dogru

There are now people coming together—politicians at the European level, like MEPs, but also local ones in Germany, as I said, with Sevim Dağdelen, Rolf Färber, and others at the European level,

and some other parties—who are trying to build something to fight sanctions in general, because they're not allowed to help me directly. So rather than helping me, they want to challenge the sanction regime itself, possibly, or try to create or find other legal ways, means, and strategies to support people, or to be a place where people can come and get information about these sanctions. Because it's not only about us or the people I'm talking about—it's also about others who are scared.

Even journalists right now are asking, "Can I talk with this person? Can I write about this stuff?" And it's going to be kind of like a legal advice thing—for other lawyers, for journalists. They're working on that right now. But at the same time, they're also trying to do an international campaign, as far as I heard, which is for me and other people. And I think that's the best way to support me—not only me, you know, it's like Nathalie Young, Jacques Bourg, the other journalists. Now they've sanctioned people again. I mean, there's also another case of a French citizen who was sanctioned by the French state recently. His name is Shaheen Hazami, and that happened a couple of months ago.

They broke into his house—armed police, like special anti-terrorist police—broke into his house, and they published all the videos. So people are right now looking at Jacques Bourg, at me, Nathalie Young, but this is happening on the EU level, and these things are happening on the national level as well, across Europe. And there are cases we don't even know about. There's this German—well, I think he's living in Germany—a Lebanese guy, I forgot his name now, who's at the UN. He's like an advisor to the Lebanese government or something like that. They debanked him, debanked his wife. And that's also a strategy across Germany—debankings—also across Europe. So the repression started on different levels because, as you asked, they're targeting specifically you.

Is there a system? There is a system already working. You know, it's like the debankings. Then you have the criminalization of activists—the most famous one was Palestine Action in the UK, and Kneecap. Then you have Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur, who was sanctioned. Then you have journalists. Then you have debankings not only of journalists, individuals, or politicians, but also of organizations. Like in Germany, the most famous case was Rote Hilfe, the organization created in the 1930s by anti-fascists to support each other as a kind of legal fund. So it is happening. But the funny thing is, it's happening only to people who—well, it's not funny, it's obvious—only to people who are criticizing the system.

Right. Not part of the system. They're allowed to spread all their stuff. Like what happened yesterday—just one last example—the Syrian president came to Berlin. Right, the Syrian president who was, or still is, I don't know, an ISIS leader who killed civilians, raped people, butchered people in Syria just a couple of years ago. Now they're rolling out the red carpet, while people who criticize that system are being sanctioned, debanked, or even imprisoned. So this is where we are in Europe today. These are European values today. And this is what we need to fight together. That's the best thing people can do—to support us, but also to support themselves.

#Pascal

Yeah. Who was it who said that when they came for the communists and I didn't speak out, there was no one left?

#Hüseyin Dogru

There was this German priest. It wasn't Bonhoeffer. Was it Bonhoeffer? No, no, no—it wasn't Bonhoeffer.

#Pascal

Anyhow, it's exactly that. It's exactly that. And all of these... I don't know. I don't want to call them journalists, because if you don't ask these kinds of questions in the federal press conference about the case of other journalists, then, I mean, you kind of lose all... At least you lose my respect. So these people just sit there, and one day they'll look back and be like, yeah, maybe it started with Dogru, and now it's happening to us—and it'll be way too late if they don't get their act together and actually start protesting, because it's absolutely right.

And Hans-Georg Maassen made that point on my show earlier, and he's a conservative—a conservative German. He was the former president of the domestic intelligence agency, and now he's being spied on by that very agency himself. He made the point on the show that this is political repression, and it can only be fought with political means. You can use and exhaust the judiciary, because you kind of have to prove the point, but at the end of the day, only political means will solve a political problem.

#Hüseyin Dogru

Yeah, I think that's also the thing with what people are trying to create now—a political movement, a political protest.

#Pascal

And this is the only thing that will help us, I think, too.

#Hüseyin Dogru

Not only me—the entire society—has to stop this authoritarian movement on different levels. We need to wake up. We need to see that history doesn't repeat itself, but there are parallels happening again. We have an economic crisis, a political crisis, and people need to wake up and not just consume things as they are.

#Pascal

You need to tell me, though—and I really need to have that discussion at some point, you know. A couple of years ago, there was this movie, very famous in Germany and actually internationally. In English, it's called **Look Who's Back**, and in German, **Er ist wieder da**. The movie's premise is that Adolf Hitler wakes up in Berlin one fine morning in 2015 or so, and then he's... he's back—he's just back—and he does his thing. And the whole premise of the movie is that, in the end, everybody wears the brown uniforms again and starts following him. And I thought, this is kind of the wrong premise. I mean, if he came back, I'm pretty sure he would join the Greens. It's like, why do the Germans wait for another brown man to come along and speak like Hitler when, in fact, the political tendencies, of course, happen within the system that's already built? I don't get that.

#Hüseyin Dogru

I mean, maybe it's a harsh comparison, but I get the analogy. It's that a new kind of authoritarian regime is being built across Europe—a new form of oppression. They don't have to do what they did in the past; that's not necessary anymore. We shouldn't be... I mean, we're already in a different time. As I said, there are some parallels. People ask, how could far-right, fascistic parties be in parliaments all across Europe? You say, yeah, people warned you about this, but you were like, "Freedom of speech, freedom of speech." You're granting freedom of speech to fascistic or right-wing organizations.

But you shut down the voices—all the liberal journalists shut down the voices of leftists, anti-fascists, or people who were fighting that. And now you're like, "Oh, how could that happen?" It's the same right now with what's happening to us, to me and others. It's like you supported all these things because it was "Russian agency," "Russian disinformation," because it was just labeled "Russian" or "Jew-hater" or "Palestinian supporter." And now you're waking up—oh, that's actually targeting me now. How could that happen? If you stay silent, that's definitely going to happen to you. And this is the problem we have. This is why, at some point, people wake up one day and go, "Wow, that's a different situation we're in now."

#Pascal

No, that's a point about principles. You need to defend them in the small cases, not wait until, like, 50% of the population is being targeted, and so on. Anyway, Hussein, is there anything we should add to this discussion that we haven't mentioned yet?

#Hüseyin Dogru

No, I think that's all. The only thing is, again, protest. Send protest emails, send protest letters—not only for me, but for all those who are sanctioned, everyone in their own country. Be critical of us as well. Don't just consume everything you hear, even our conversation. Don't believe what we say—research it, go to the sources, talk to your politicians, talk to your trade unions, and make sure this

isn't happening in your country, whoever's watching. Because that's the only support you can give us. Yeah, that's it.

And thank you to everyone for all the support. It's been, over the past few days, really, really positively overwhelming. I hope—and I know—that at some point we're going to overturn this. But it's a long road. And to you as well, please be careful. Thank you for your work, because you're talking about things people don't want you—or us—to talk about. I mean, we might agree on maybe 70% of the topics, but we need to be able to talk. You know, that's the whole point. That's journalism. That's freedom of speech. So, yeah.

#Pascal

And just also, as a little shimmer of hope—good people, even when they sit on the other side of the political spectrum, like Hans-Georg Maassen, a very conservative personality—when they're principled people, they will speak out for you. They'll actually say, "Look, this is wrong. Even if I don't support that." I mean, that's Voltaire, right? It's like, I might not like the guy's opinion, but he must be able to say it. And the good people, they do that. And there are actually a lot of them out there—just unfortunately not at the levers of power, where it would currently matter. My friend, stay strong and all the best. We'll talk again. If there are any updates, please let us know.

#Hüseyin Dogru

Thank you so much.

#Pascal

Thank you, Pascal Lottaz. Thank you for your time today.