



Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler



TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL  
Deutschland e.V.

Die Koalition gegen Korruption.

## ***Whistleblower Award to Edward Snowden***

This year's Whistleblower Award goes to the American Edward J. Snowden. An insider, he publicized the massive, hidden surveillance of communications data by Western secret services. People who, in the public interest, are revealing major grievances and dangerous developments for individuals and society, for peace and the environment, are worthy recipients of the Whistleblower Prize.

Since 1999 the Whistleblower Prize is awarded bi-annually by the German chapter of International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA) and the Federation of German Scientists (FGS, the German Pugwash group). The prize money is 3000 Euros. The previous winners include, among others, Rainer Moormann (2011: Risks of pebble bed reactors), Rudolf Schmenger / Frank Wehrheim (2009: tax inspectors in Frankfurt) and Brigitte Heinisch (2007: Berlin geriatric nurse). This year, for the first time, the anti-corruption organization Transparency International, Germany is involved in the Whistleblower Prize.

In the view of the jury, the revelations of Edward J. Snowden leave no choice but to thoroughly check the facts and the state of the evidence. On this basis, the actions and processes by domestic and foreign authorities of the secret services revealed by Snowden need to be examined. The guiding question is if, and if so in what form, the governing law has been breached. Based on current information, Article 10 of the Basic Law<sup>i</sup> as well as the G10-law (regulating compliance of intelligence services with Article 10) have been violated. By publicizing the information, Edward Snowden accepted major disadvantages knowing of the prosecution of whistleblowers in the security industry.

Hartmut Grassl of the Federation of German Scientists stated: “an open society needs civil courage and courageous people like Edward Snowden in order to uncover and stop abuses.” German IALANA’s Otto Jaeckel said: “Who could be more suitable to grant asylum to a US citizen being persecuted than the country which has been spied upon as heavily as

Germany? Nevertheless, the whole EU has to act. Edward Snowden's whistleblowing did a great service to Germany and the other EU member states. Therefore we should compete to grant him asylum: from conviction, but also out of gratitude."

Edda Müller, Chair of Transparency Germany stated: "We owe a great debt to Edward Snowden: his courageous actions must have consequences. International treaties limiting the sovereignty of Germany must be changed. Furthermore, Great Britain as a member state of the European Union must explain very clearly in Brussels its position on the basic rights of EU citizens. And finally, Germany needs to ensure adequate protection of whistleblowers through appropriate legal regulations."

Berlin, July 25<sup>th</sup> 2013

For further information please contact:

Prof. Dr. Edda Müller, Chair  
Dr. Christian Humborg, Executive Director  
Transparency International, Germany  
Tel.: +49 30 - 54 98 98 0  
[chumborg@transparency.de](mailto:chumborg@transparency.de)

Annegret Falter  
Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler (VDW e.V.)  
IALANA – German Section of International Association of Lawyers Against  
Nuclear Arms  
Tel.: 0+49 170/ 29 65 66 0  
[Annegret.falter@t-online.de](mailto:Annegret.falter@t-online.de)

---

*i Article 10 (Privacy of letters, posts, and telecommunications; amended 24 June 1968): (1) Privacy of letters, posts, and telecommunications shall be inviolable. (2) Restrictions may only be ordered pursuant to a statute. Where a restriction serves to protect the free democratic basic order or the existence or security of the Federation, the statute may stipulate that the person affected shall not be informed of such restriction and that recourse to the courts shall be replaced by a review of the case by bodies and auxiliary bodies appointed by Parliament. ([www.constitution.org/cons/germany.txt](http://www.constitution.org/cons/germany.txt))*