

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Talk Liberation and WikiLeaks Lawyers To Challenge De-banking in Landmark June 19 Icelandic Court Hearing

Support an ongoing David vs Goliath struggle for justice against a powerful banking institution - at [BadBanki.com](https://badbanki.com)

No institution is too big to be held accountable before the law - this is the message independent software development house [Talk Liberation](https://talkliberation.com), [represented by](#) WikiLeaks' Icelandic lawyers, is taking to an Icelandic court this week.

Talk Liberation, the creators behind the [Panquake](#) social media project, [are once again](#) on the ground in Reykjavik, Iceland, suing the major Icelandic bank Islandsbanki for its 2022 de-banking of the tech startup, an action which Talk Liberation contends was baseless and procedurally flawed.

Sveinn Andri Sveinsson, the Icelandic Supreme Court lawyer representing Talk Liberation ehf., said he was relatively optimistic about the results of the case against Islandsbanki. "The fact is that the bank terminated the banking service without any reason. The reasons the bank have provided the court with for the termination are not only minor and lame, but fake." Sveinn said he hoped justice would be served in the court. "The truth must prevail."

In a crippling and unjustified move in 2022, Islandsbanki froze USD\$1 million dollars of Talk Liberation's seed funding without notice and then terminated their banking services. The bank invoked money laundering and anti-terrorism financing laws to do so, before making a stunning reversal on their position, unfreezing and returning the funds - but taking nine months to do so.

By their actions, Islandsbanki effectively conceded that Talk Liberation did nothing wrong however offered no explanation, apology or compensation for the costs and damages inflicted upon Talk Liberation by Islandsbanki. Talk Liberation was forced to pivot operations to bring alternative solutions to market while awaiting resolution on these matters and in March 2023, instructed lawyers to prepare suit to hold Islandsbanki to account.

In what may prove to be a seminal case of 'the little people' taking on a major financial institution - Talk Liberation is looking to set a precedent that banks do not have *carte blanche* to act with impunity against legitimate commercial operations engaged in lawful business activity.

Talk Liberation founder Suzie Dawson said "There has been a worldwide trend of banks making decisions with disregard for proportionality and economic freedoms and exhibiting a lack of proper consideration of the potential negative economic impacts of their actions. That tide is starting to turn - legislatures are reassessing the propriety of de-banking as a practice and are acting to curb it. Economic freedom is a core principle underpinning democracy and our hope is that Iceland will embrace this opportunity to lead on the issue of consumer rights, rather than to lag behind other developed nations who are rightly assessing de-banking to be an unfair and disproportionate practice and updating their regulations accordingly."

Talk Liberation Brand Ambassador, New York Times best-selling author John Kiriakou and Panquake's Media Director Fiorella Isabel will be reporting live from Reykjavik on Thursday 19 June, the day of the District Court hearing. Since April, the hearing has been deferred twice by the Icelandic legal system but Talk Liberation remains determined to see our day in court.

In March 2025, Talk Liberation launched the #BadBanki online campaign to amplify this battle for justice and give others in the same predicament a voice. Research published at the BadBanki.com campaign website demonstrates unequivocally that 'de-banking' is being utilised internationally as a tool of political persecution and we continue to highlight examples of this global trend.

Talk Liberation remains committed to driving positive change in the current paradigm of social media platforms and technology, protecting users and their data from exploitation and abuse.

Post-Script - an Interesting Coincidence?

Recently, without explanation, Talk Liberation founder Suzie Dawson was also de-banked from her New Zealand (NZ) state bank, KiwiBank, after banking with them for nearly 25 years. The Talk Liberation founder lodged a complaint with the New Zealand Banking Ombudsman's Office who have formally accepted to investigate the case and assisted in unearthing hundreds of internal Kiwibank records and documents relating to the case.

The documents contain myriad discrepancies as yet unexplained, which point

to manipulation of account registration records as well as customer complaints procedure records by Kiwibank, which calls into question the integrity of Kiwibank's internal resolution and reporting mechanisms at scale.

The investigation continues and further legal action is anticipated.

How Can People Help in This Fight Against Unfair Banking Practices?

Follow this ongoing David vs Goliath struggle for justice against a powerful banking institution at [BadBanki.com](https://badbanki.com).

[Write to us](#) or reach out on social media

[Contact our Media Director](#) for interviews and commentary

BACKGROUND:

In 2021, social media project [Panquake](#) was born out of the vision to rebalance the distribution of power between social media users and platforms, to create a space where users could communicate without being profiled and exploited by AI, advertisers and Big Data.

Since parent company [Talk Liberation](#)'s inception, it has grown into a multi-national organisation with nearly 50 staff spanning more than a dozen countries. Talk Liberation remains committed to fostering a safer internet environment that is free from censorship, mass surveillance and advertising, while empowering users globally.

As well as developing [Panquake](#), Talk Liberation is the team behind [WLDragnet.com](https://wldrag.net), FREE link shortening and archiving service pnqk.me and upcoming digital marketing dashboard [Lnqk Me](#).

Relevance of Iceland:

There is a long and storied history of banking abuses and protests in Iceland.

Icelandic financial crisis:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008–2011_Icelandic_financial_crisis

Massive Icelandic protests against the banks:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_Icelandic_financial_crisis_protests

Iceland jailed bankers:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2016-03-31/welcome-to-iceland- where-bad- bankers-go-to-prison>

98% of Icelanders voted against bailing out the banks:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Icelandic_loan_guarantees_referendum

