

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday September 2, 2025



Talk Liberation, WikiLeaks Lawyers back in court today suing major Icelandic bank

Support an ongoing David vs Goliath struggle for justice against a powerful banking institution - at BadBanki.com

Today, independent software development house [Talk Liberation](#), founder of the viral social media project [Panquake](#) is back in an Icelandic courtroom pursuing justice after major Icelandic bank Islandsbanki de-banked Talk Liberation in 2022 and froze their US\$1 million seed funding, withholding it for nine months.

Talk Liberation's lawyer, Sveinn Andri Sveinsson, who previously won a US\$10 million settlement against another financial institution on behalf of WikiLeaks, was recently interviewed by major Icelandic outlet [Morgunbladið](#) regarding Talk Liberation's lawsuit against Islandsbanki and questioned the grounds on which Islandsbanki froze the funds:

"Islandsbanki has not been willing to explain this decision properly. The bank has not been willing to provide any evidence that anything suspicious has occurred."

The outcome of a prior June 19th hearing was that the presiding judge ordered the bank to produce witnesses by September 2nd, 2025, which is what brings the Talk Liberation team back to Iceland today. In the [Morgunbladið](#) interview, Sveinsson gave an insightful glimpse into our case and the precedents it could set. Sveinsson noted though our funds were returned, this "caused the company great damage," in terms of delaying funds to be used for company development and rendering the company unable to operate normally in Iceland, both then and in the future, as Islandsbanki's actions have had a flow-on effect to other banks in the sector.

Talk Liberation founder and Chief Product Officer [Suzie Dawson](#) said:

"The bank's actions against Talk Liberation, by extension, harmed thousands of supporters and donors around the world. We are

pursuing this action in their defence, calling the bank to account for its wrongful accusations against us and its flawed process. Our funds were frozen without notice and when the bank later made a stunning reversal and returned our money to us, no apology was forthcoming and there was no recognition of the extensive harm caused to our company and our community by the bank. Iceland stood to gain substantially from Talk Liberation's contributions to the tech sector and was itself damaged by the bank. We hope that justice will prevail in this important case for the benefit of all involved and impacted by it."

International AML (Anti Money Laundering) systems that banks feed information about their customers into, are supposed to operate according to underpinning legislation. In Iceland, this is the provisions of the 'Act on Measures Against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing No.140/2018'. As Sveinsson points out, "The problem is that the enforcement of the Act is left to the banks, which are private entities. Their systems and rules lack transparency, and they refuse to provide information about their internal procedures. The government is not involved—only vague internal rules of the banks, which are based on databases that no one knows the contents of."

Icelandic radio station, *Utvarp Saga 99.4*, drew connections between the actions taken against us and our core principles, pointing out that our project aims "to restore the balance of power on the Internet – from large corporations to ordinary users".

Companies and individuals around the world are increasingly falling victim to debanking as well.

We have aggregated examples of this at our [#BadBanki](#) campaign website. ('Banki' is the Icelandic word for 'bank').

Concern around this form of financial persecution has been growing, across the globe.

This issue is not just about one company but the future of economic freedoms in a growing digital world.

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 - do you have a bank story you want to share?
- [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.

Panquake's parent company, [Talk Liberation](#), has grown into a multi-national organisation with nearly 50 staff spanning more than a dozen countries, and has released other exciting products such as free URL shortener and archiving service [Panquake Me](#). It is also soon to release [Lnqk Me](#), a private and secure digital marketing dashboard for creating branded and customisable links and QR codes.

Talk Liberation remains committed to fostering a safer internet environment, safeguarding users from data exploitation, censorship, and corporate violations of human rights, ensuring that freedom of expression and privacy are upheld in an otherwise increasingly hostile and invasive digital landscape.

Background links:

['Compensation demanded from Islandsbanki'](#), *Morgunbladid*, 12 August 2025

['Íslandsbanki said to have applied censorship: Closed accounts without explanation'](#), *Útvarp Saga*, 14 July 2025

[Bank Staff Must Testify: Talk Liberation, WikiLeaks Lawyers Win Key Concession in Icelandic Court](#), *Talk Liberation Substack*, 6 July 2025

[Talk Liberation and WikiLeaks Lawyers To Challenge Icelandic De-banking, Talk Liberation Substack, 18 June 2025](#)

[Bank Staff Must Testify: Talk Liberation, WikiLeaks Lawyers Win Key Concession in Icelandic Court, Press Release, Panquake.com, 24 June 2025](#)

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

