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The Swedish Pirate Party's answer to the Rights Alliance's demands

On February 17th, the Swedish Pirate Party received a threatening letter from the Rights Alliance organisation (former Anti-Piracy Bureau). The Rights Alliance stated that they intended to bring legal action against The Pirate Party and individual representatives of the party, if the party did not cease to provide The Pirate Bay with Internet access on the 26th of February at the latest.

The Leader of The Pirate Party, Anna Troberg:

– It has been a few very hectic days, says Troberg. We have had an internal discussion about the Right Alliance's threat against the party. The individuals that would be personal targets of the Rights Alliance's threats have discussed the matter with their families. This has, of course, been a tough emotional process for everyone involved. It is somewhat odd to realise that your political engagement can come at such a high cost in Sweden in the year 2013.

– I am therefore very happy that the anonymous heroes of The Pirate Bay very early on decided to help The Pirate Party out of the difficult situation.

The Hydra Bay

When the Internet access through The Pirate Party was threatened, The Pirate Bay chose to move on and get two completely new Internet connections, both provided by two sister parties of the Swedish Pirate Party: the newly formed Norwegian Pirate Party and the Catalanian Pirate Party. To celebrate the move, the site is sporting a brand new name for a day: “The Hydra Bay”.

– It is wonderful to be able to pass on the baton to two sister parties. It is testament to the pirate movement's maturity and strength, says Troberg. We help each other and work with our sight set firmly on the future. Today, there are more than sixty different Pirate Parties all around the world. Every cut connection to The Pirate Bay will generate two new connections.

Legal counteraction

The Pirate Party considers the Rights Alliance's threat an abuse of the justice system. The Rights Alliance is counting on superior economic muscle to achieve two things. Firstly, to scare an economically weaker opponent into silence with the threat of a costly civil law suit. Or secondly, to wear the opponent down with a lengthy legal process that drains money, energy and focus, which in this case means money, energy and focus drained out of The Pirate Party's election campaigns for 2014.

– You always have to chose your battles wisely, says Troberg. It would be crazy to enter a game where the rules are decided by the other team. The Pirate Party's mission is not to produce martyrs for the copyright industry. Our mission is to create longterm political change that ensures that the copyright industry in the future will not be allowed to threaten companies, organisations and individuals into silence with our common judicial system as a weapon.

Troberg is, however, not a stranger to the idea of directing the scrutinising eyes of the law at the Rights Alliance and their action:

– The Pirate Party has a board meeting in a few days. I will recommend the board to file a police report against the Rights Alliance for unlawful coercion. It is important to determine precisely how forgiving the system is to those who try to abuse the judicial system to silence others.

More information:

[The Hydra Bay](#)

[The Rights Alliance's demands \(in Swedish\)](#)

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Om Piratpartiet

[Piratpartiet](#) är Sveriges mest framtidsinriktade politiska parti. Partiet har sedan starten 2006 fokuserat på integritet, kultur och kunskap, och svarar på de frågor de gamla partierna ännu inte förstått att de måste ställa.

I Europaparlamentsvalet 2009 fick Piratpartiet 7,1% av rösterna, vilket gav [partiet två parlamentsplatser](#). Piratpartiet är en del av en växande rörelse med systerpartier runt om i Europa och världen. Flera av dessa har folkvalda representanter på lokal och regional nivå.

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