



Germany:

Deutsche Bank closes accounts of Erdogan opponents



Deutsche Bank is terminating the accounts of three supporters of the Gülen movement in Germany. Those affected suspect a political background because they are on Ankara's "black list".

Research proves a targeted denunciation.

A sober letter, twelve lines long - and the matter was sealed. Deutsche Bank terminated the accounts of several Turkish opposition figures in Germany.

The bank's letters to customers from mid-March state that they have the right to end the business relationship at any time. The bank did not give a reason for the termination in the letter. But those affected have their suspicions. Because they all have in common that the Turkish government considers them terrorists - and has had them on a "black list" since December 2021.

The three concerned made inquiries after receiving the notice. And they found that a note about them has been stored in the international financial database World-Check since December 2021. World-Check

is a private company that claims to provide information about "politically exposed persons". According to World-Check, customers include some of the largest banks in the world. For example, they use the service to check whether customers are subject to sanctions or links to white-collar crime, money laundering, terrorism, drug trafficking, weapons and human trafficking.

On request, Deutsche Bank did not want to comment on whether the World-Check database was used. A spokesman said it was also not possible to comment on individual customer relationships. Deutsche Bank told one of those affected that there were no political reasons for closing his account. Rather, it is a normal "procedural" process.

However, it turns out that there were clear denunciatory indications about those affected - and a sender who deliberately spread them.

Gülen supporters therefore doubt that Deutsche Bank is telling the whole truth. On the one hand, the two other victims stated that they actively used their account. On the other hand, accounts of Erdogan opponents have already been terminated by large banks in other countries such as Great Britain and New Zealand - apparently due to pressure from Ankara.

Distancing from anti-Semitism plunges Islamist association into turmoil

The statements made by the Secretary General of the Milli Görüs Movement (IGMG) during a panel event in Vienna - we reported on this in our last podcast episode - led to in-depth discussions within the association, according to insiders.

"The resentment in the hall was palpable," said an observer from MENA Research Center, when the Secretary General of the IGMG took a critical stance on Hamas and anti-Semitic statements by Milli Görüs founder Erbakan.



Not everyone in the IGMG is likely to agree with its general's positioning. The first indication of this: Altas' statements, which could also promote the often-proclaimed change internally, cannot be found on the IGMG's social media channels. The Islamic Federation in Austria reported on the Vienna event on Facebook, but without mentioning the distancing from Hamas and anti-Semitism.

Now rumors are circulating that Secretary General Altas will be dismissed. Insiders report that he had to apologize for his statements after protests at a meeting of regional chairmen. "One almost feels sorry for Bekir," tweeted Rusen Timur Aksak, former spokesman for the Islamic Faith Community (IGGÖ), "he is supposed to give the IGMG a modern face, but even the most delicate attempt will be shot down internally. That's how it will be empty work, dear Erbakancis ...", quotes the "Volksblatt".

Turkey

Turkish Riviera bays being privatized

The economy is in free fall, with the inflation rate climbing to 61,14 percent in March. In the

same month, Ankara began privatizing the popular Mediterranean bays on the Turkish Riviera. The contractor Suleyman Bölünmez, whose daughter sits in parliament for the governing party AKP, was awarded the contract for the first four bays in the Gulf of Fethiye opposite the Greek island of Rhodes.

For the ridiculous price of 12.5 million lira, around 800,000 euros, he owns the bays for the next ten years. Almost two dozen other stretches of beach are advertised for lease. In the future, yachts will no longer be allowed to anchor there, but will have to moor to buoys for a fee.



"Everything that brings in money is sold in this country," says local politician Yeşim Mukan about Ankara's plans.