

“Most of Europe has no whistleblower protection”

The case of Edward Snowden remains in the spotlight. Yet even in Europe, there's little protection for those who point out corruption, crime and wrongdoing, explains Transparency International's Mark Worth. (11.07.2013)

His lawyer Anatoly Kucherena had said that he accepted President Vladimir Putin's condition not to cause further harm to US interests.

German anger

Snowden's revelations have also caused a heated political debate in Germany, after a report by news weekly Der Spiegel said documents provided by Snowden showed that German services cooperated closely with the NSA and used its Internet spy software XKeyscore.

Germany's domestic intelligence service BfV has said it was only testing the Internet tool, which Der Spiegel said can store several days' worth of Internet traffic data and content as well as key words from online search engines and Google Maps.

The US documents reportedly also praised the "eagerness" of foreign intelligence service BND President Gerhard Schindler to cooperate more closely with the NSA and said the German government had modified its interpretation of privacy laws to allow more flexibility in data sharing.

With elections set for September 22, the claims made by Snowden, some of them first reported by Der Spiegel, have put pressure on German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has said she only learned of the program, called PRISM, through media reports.

Reports of German collaboration on the program have angered many in Germany, and awakened dark memories of the surveillance methods used by the Nazis' Gestapo and communist East Germany's Stasi.

tj/kms (dpa, AP)