

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Tornado Cash devs arrested](#)

ShinsekaiCorp - August 12, 2022, 11:39 am

TC discord deleted, website deleted, devs got arrested.

Heres my question: although i believe TC didnt have any bad intentions in context of to help people launder money, how come the government can that easily shut down ANY crypto/nft if they really want to?

What exactly is "decentralized" here...?

TC was not made for money laundering, just like onlyfans wasnt made to be pornographic website - the Users are the ones who determined its fate.

If TC had a way to block illegal transactions, then that would be a web2 company and not web3.

And now when TC doesnt block illegal transactions in order to remain "decentralized" and "anonymous", they got arrested and their system got shut down. Ironically, so much for "anonymity" and "decentralization"...

This means the government is able to shut down absolutely any and every crypto, including BTC if they really wanted to. The question now remains is: why are they letting it roll and not shut down the whole of crypto?

What if crypto was a part of the governments plan for a future financial world where they can control, freeze, block or shut down our finances with a click of a button just as easily as they arrested TC founders?

flyingduck - August 12, 2022, 12:59 pm

damn. i wonder how they found out who they are?!

PR1V473 - August 12, 2022, 1:14 pm

(Aug 12, 2022 11:39 AM)ShinsekaiCorp Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What if crypto was a part of the governments plan for a future financial world where they can control, freeze, block or shut down our finances with a click of a button just as easily as they arrested TC founders?This got me thinking real hard about possible scenarios...

P1R4T3 - August 12, 2022, 1:15 pm

Do they got arrested???? What was the reason? Money laundering?

Average HF User - August 12, 2022, 1:21 pm

Seems like you have a poor understanding of how crypto works if you think that shutting down Tornado Cash is shutting down crypto. In fact, Tornado Cash is not even shut down. If you have ever forked the TC repo, you can simply run their site locally, and their smart contract is decentralized and still getting used hundreds of times per day. The problem is government sanctions, but, realistically, all you need to do is find a non-kyc or sanction ignored exchange to provide ETH>XMR movements.

(Aug 12, 2022 12:59 PM)flyingduck Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) damn. i wonder how they found out who they are?!

As for this, I contributed to Tornado Cash a little bit on GitHub a few months ago, not enough contribution to be notable though. I did notice, however, that all of the main Devs had their personal info plastered all over their GitHub profiles... so it wasn't like they were trying to remain anonymous. Github would probably readily shill their user's personal info to the government anyways.

ShinsekaiCorp - August 12, 2022, 1:40 pm

(Aug 12, 2022 01:21 PM)Average HF User Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Seems like you have a poor understanding of how crypto works if you think that shutting down Tornado Cash is shutting down crypto. In fact, Tornado Cash is not even shut down. If you have ever forked the TC repo, you can simply run their site locally, and their smart contract is decentralized and still getting used hundreds of times per day. The problem is government sanctions, but, realistically, all you need to do is find a non-kyc or sanction ignored exchange to provide ETH>XMR movements.

As for this, I contributed to Tornado Cash a little bit on GitHub a few months ago, not enough contribution to be notable though. I did notice, however, that all of the main Devs had their personal info plastered all over their GitHub profiles... so it wasn't like they were trying to remain anonymous. Github would probably readily shill their user's personal info to the government anyways.

Does that mean if i fork their repo and run TC locally am i also risking to be arrested if i try to withdraw funds from it?

P1R4T3 - August 12, 2022, 1:50 pm

After googling, it's not dev's but dev. One dude, "He is suspected of involvement in concealing criminal financial flows and facilitating money laundering through the mixing of cryptocurrencies through the decentralized Ethereum mixing service Tornado Cash,"

And he will go free, I am 90% sure, it's not his fault how users use his platform... It's like blaming Mark for the user who uploaded porn on Facebook

Average HF User - August 12, 2022, 1:56 pm

(Aug 12, 2022 01:40 PM)ShinsekaiCorp Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Does that mean if i fork their repo and run TC locally am i also risking to be arrested if i try to withdraw funds from it?

Running the fork locally just gives you a convenient way to interact with the smart contract. Running their site is not going to get you in to trouble, using the smart contract which is sanctioned might. Realistically you are not going to be at risk of arrest unless you happen to be moving large sums of money through tornado cash. There are still hundreds if not thousands of transactions with the smart contract everyday so the sample size is only getting larger.

Average HF User - August 12, 2022, 2:14 pm

(Aug 12, 2022 02:11 PM)Focus Broken Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) No, it's getting smaller, unfortunately: <https://twitter.com/BotTornado>

Damn intersting, I will admit that claim was based off of me looking at ethscan for like 1.3 seconds and seeing like ~20 transactions in an hour and assuming the rest. It's also interesting that people are deciding to move so much money through when there is so little traffic with the smart contract, doesn't seem worth it to me

Omniscient - August 12, 2022, 3:01 pm

I'd like to see the exact charges and the jurisdiction. And an arrest is not a conviction. But a headline can be nearly as effective.

<https://www.coindesk.com/layer2/2022/08/12/an-alleged-tornado-cash-developer-was-arrested-are-y>

[ou-next/](#)

So he's not technically charged with coding or running the mixer service. It's more about an allegation of actual money laundering.

Also note this little tidbit in the article...

Quote:(The difference between Tornado and Helix or Bitcoin Fog is that the latter two were "custodial," meaning they took possession of users' funds – a distinction that may no longer matter when it comes to facilitating money laundering or operating a money transmitter.

This is why HF can NEVER EVER have an escrow service where we are custodians of funds potentially used in some illicit manner. People just don't understand that huge distinction.

ep1capple - August 20, 2022, 6:07 am

what they're really doing is trying to make an example out of him and signal the start of a more compliant crypto infrastructure rather than true decentralization. A lot of shit is unfolding and at a quick pace hard to keep up lmaoo.

Omniscient - August 20, 2022, 7:37 am

(Aug 20, 2022 06:07 AM)ep1capple Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) what they're really doing is trying to make an example out of him and signal the start of a more compliant crypto infrastructure rather than true decentralization. A lot of shit is unfolding and at a quick pace hard to keep up lmaoo.

Bitcoin is "true decentralization". There is no one to arrest. Regulatory compliance will ultimately fail because of decentralization and open source. Making something illegal doesn't actually work to stop it. Otherwise no one would do drugs or rob banks. And when something is illegal but it's not harmful, eventually it's legal.

The good news is that crypto isn't illegal to begin with. They are gonna try to regulate it, but they can't and in the end their empires of printed money will have to find new forms of power. Like using Carbon Credits or ESG. But we're close to being free from the chains of government fiat.

Aussie - August 21, 2022, 12:23 am

Are there are there legal grounds for arresting someone who wrote open source code that was used maliciously by bad actors?

Just checked with my law student friend, the courts would have to prove "he created it with the intention it was going to be used by a bad actor."

diesel - August 21, 2022, 9:11 am

(Aug 21, 2022 12:23 AM)Aussie Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Are there are there legal grounds for arresting someone who wrote open source code that was used maliciously by bad actors?

Just checked with my law student friend, the courts would have to prove "he created it with the intention it was going to be used by a bad actor."

Any government can find a reason to arrest you if they want to bad enough. Your interpretation of the letter-of-the-law is of no consequence. Depending on the country, they may not be able to hold you, but they will achieve the goal of scaring copycats at least in the short term.

Freedom is no longer a god given right, but a privilege that can be revoked at any time, even in the so called "Free world".

Migos - August 21, 2022, 9:53 am

(Aug 20, 2022 07:01 PM)Focus Broken Wrote: [\[CITE\]](https://www.theblock.co/post/164657/developers-family-protest-arrest-of-tornado-cash-developer-in-amsterdam) Protest in Amsterdam for Alex Pertsev:
<https://www.theblock.co/post/164657/developers-family-protest-arrest-of-tornado-cash-developer-in-amsterdam>

there should be more then 50 people in the square ffs.

Omniscient - August 31, 2022, 2:20 pm

Quote:The U.S government invented crypto.

What evidence do you have to back that up? I understand the speculation. But I don't see how it's not equally possible that Bitcoin is the product of people wanting financial freedom for the world too. You say the government has wanted to invent crypto, they wouldn't have done so without controls imho.

Quote:This new era is the space world. Were we will live on the moon and on mars and other places.

Humans can't live in space. It's nonsense to believe we can colonize and survive on another planet. It's like taking a fish out of water. Sure, we can go there and habitate there for a while, but having children, growing crops, creating a livable environment...won't happen. Do some research on what it would take and you'll see it's not going to happen. The effects on the human body from long-term space occupation is immense.

Quote: The government will always have control on things.

That's what King George and the British Empire said too.

Quote: Anything the government doesn't approve they quickly in zero nanoseconds take it down. If they don't it means they're part of it and it's part of their agenda.

America ain't China just yet.

ep1capple - August 31, 2022, 11:03 pm

(Aug 31, 2022 02:20 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What evidence do you have to back that up? there's a fringe group of people who believe that BTC is the government's creation no matter what argument you throw back at them to disprove that. If the gov't were to create a crypto it would be pegged to the dollar, able to be controlled/frozen from your wallet, unlimited supply oh wait...

grady - October 1, 2022, 9:45 am

(Aug 12, 2022 01:21 PM)Average HF User Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) As for this, I contributed to Tornado Cash a little bit on GitHub a few months ago, not enough contribution to be notable though. I did notice, however, that all of the main Devs had their personal info plastered all over their GitHub profiles... so it wasn't like they were trying to remain anonymous. Github would probably readily shill their user's personal info to the government anyways.

Have worked with GitHub w a subpoena before, it's a very easy process.

diesel - October 1, 2022, 10:21 am

Is semenov living in the west? Because he didn't get arrested. If he's in Russia then nvm.

wyvn - October 1, 2022, 11:24 am

(Aug 21, 2022 09:53 AM)Migos Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) there should be more then 50 people in the square ffs. unfortunately i dont think that many people know about the situation

and if they did, trying to convince someone who isn't privacy conscious to say "free this guy" while that guy also did technically create software that fully anonymizes transactions on the blockchain, and it was used by cyber criminals to launder money, he may have not done it himself, but still i can see the reason why there isn't more than 50 people in the square, people just don't know, and if they did, i think the majority of them would say "good, he should be in prison" even though it wasn't him that did the laundering or stealing of funds, he just provided the software to be able to do that if someone wanted to

SUI-3183372 - October 1, 2022, 11:37 am

(Oct 1, 2022 10:21 AM)diesel Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is semenov living in the west? Because he didn't get arrested. If he's in Russia then nvm.

Roman is based out of Russia based on a few limited Google searches.

MeyerWolfsheim - October 1, 2022, 1:37 pm

What happened is pure shit.

Bullup - October 1, 2022, 2:11 pm

(Aug 12, 2022 11:39 AM)ShinsekaiCorp Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This means the government is able to shut down absolutely any and every crypto, including BTC if they really wanted to.

He clearly got it twisted before he got banned or wasn't educated enough, nobody can shut down BTC at best they can try to censor it.

There is no owner to arrest and you can't take any network down, they can only try to censor it through attacking big exchanges and miners.

Fynasty - October 1, 2022, 2:12 pm

A good old reactionary vs revolutionary story. These never get old.

shreder - October 1, 2022, 4:26 pm

Watching haters cheer his arrest it's disgusting.

Lilith - October 2, 2022, 9:39 am

(Oct 2, 2022 09:29 AM)Dyne Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) All anyone needs to see.

Pretty much. I get Disc is the popular platform and easier for drawing people in but if you're playing around in a grey or black zone, gotta go with Element.

flyingduck - October 2, 2022, 9:47 am

(Oct 2, 2022 09:29 AM)Dyne Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) All anyone needs to see.

(Oct 2, 2022 09:39 AM)Lilith Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Pretty much. I get Disc is the popular platform and easier for drawing people in but if you're playing around in a grey or black zone, gotta go with Element.

@dyne, i figured. time for a popular discord alternative imho. i mean i don't wanna see my nudies shared with them ops :(

@lilith, grey zone technically isn't illegal. but correct me if i'm wrong x)

DashPHP - October 2, 2022, 9:53 am

Quote:If TC had a way to block illegal transactions, then that would be a web2 company and not web3.

You could still be decentralised and still block known crypto addresses based on a voting mechanism of some sort.

flyingduck - October 2, 2022, 9:56 am

(Oct 2, 2022 09:48 AM)Dyne Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Tornado Cash itself is a grey zone.
It's not illegal by design or practicality, but utilized by its' userbase to bend will for profit.
its the same old: the knife producer doesn't know if the knife is used to cut meat or stab people.
the individual user is to blame.

GruntStyl - October 2, 2022, 3:40 pm

Just another reason why I stickily stick to BTC/ETH... The creator of ETH seems transparent enough for me to trust it and the platform, however lately I've just wanted to put a 100% crypto currency portfolio into BTC as time goes on.

Goku - October 2, 2022, 3:48 pm

(Oct 2, 2022 03:40 PM)GruntStyl Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Just another reason why I stickily stick to BTC/ETH...
The creator of ETH seems transparent enough for me to trust it and the platform, however lately I've just wanted to put a 100% crypto currency portfolio into BTC as time goes on.

Same. Throughout the years, I have been investing in alt coins. But too many had different kind of conflicts.

ETH is also a great coin to have, but it will always be second to BTC.

Currently, have my funds stashed in Dai to wait out this bear season. Definitely going all in BTC around end of this year.