

Ola Bini:  
unfairly persecuted  
for working in  
cryptography,  
security and privacy

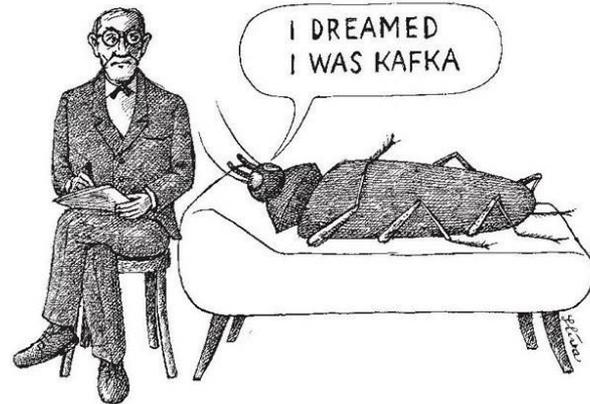


# Who is Ola Bini?

- Creator of two programming languages: Ioke, Sesh
- Collaborator to JRuby
- Collaborator to the Tor Project, Enigmail Project, Let's Encrypt Project
- Working on the version 4 of the Off-the-Record (OTR) protocol around deniability, confidentiality and privacy. Joint work with Ian Goldberg and Nik Unger, closely related to what was presented on day 1 at the 'Succinct Arguments and Secure Messaging' track.
- Illegally detained in Ecuador until this day
  - "I told her that we were headed into a world where people would have important, intimate, long-term relationships with people they had never met face to face. I was worried about privacy in that world, and that's why I was working on cryptography" - Whitfield Diffie

# Why is he detained?

- How did all happened?
- No real charges
- Friendship with Julian Assange
- Human rights violations: no access to lawyers, no presumption of innocence, awful cell conditions, no real charges, absurdity of the preventive prison, showing his devices as evidence, showing english books as evidence...



# What is the current state?

- He was imprisoned for 72 days
- He is now investigated for 125 days
- 30 more days have been added

# Why should we care?

- It can happen to anyone working on security, privacy and cryptography nowadays
- It lowers the trust we have on due process
- The security, privacy and cryptography profession is now of high risk
- It is an evisceration of liberty: freedom of speech, movement, and, even, economic engagement
- Cryptographic, privacy and security work gets halted
- One of the few NGOs working in cryptographic, privacy and security

# What can be done?

- Retweet with the hashtag #FreeOlaBini
- Visit the website: [freeolabini.org](http://freeolabini.org)
- Talk about it
- Engage!
  - “Most academic cryptographers seem to think that our field is a fun, deep, and politically neutral game -a set of puzzles involving communicating parties and notional adversaries. This vision of who we are animates a field whose work is intellectually impressive and rapidly produced, but also quite inbred and divorced from real-world concerns. Is this what cryptography should be like? Is it how we should expend the bulk of our intellectual capital?”

-Rogaway, P. (2015), *The Moral Character of Cryptographic Work*,  
○ University of California, Davis, USA

Thanks!  
@claucece  
#FreeOlaBini

