

Ellsberg Whistleblower Award Ceremony 2026

12th March 2026, 7-9 pm (CET) + Get-together



taz Kantine, Friedrichstraße 21, 10969 Berlin + [Livestream](#)

The **Ellsberg Whistleblower Award 2026** will be presented on **March 12, 2026**, at the **taz Kantine Berlin** to Colombian whistleblower **Andrés Olarte Peña**. His [revelations](#) about environmental crimes and systematic cover-ups at the state-owned oil company **Ecopetrol** formed the basis for the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) report “[Crude Lies](#)” and the BBC documentary “[Colombia: Petroleum, Pollution and Paramilitaries](#)”.

We are delighted to welcome **Prof. Dr. Harald Welzer**—sociologist, social psychologist, and author—as the laudator. In the subsequent roundtable, we will discuss the investigations, the whistleblowing process, and potential impacts on Colombia and global supply chains with **Andrés Olarte Peña**, **Owen Pinnell** (BBC) and **Alexander von Bismarck** (EIA). Afterwards, we invite everyone to join us for snacks and drinks. The event will be held in English.

The [Ellsberg Whistleblower Award](#) was initiated by the **taz Panter Foundation**, **Wau Holland Foundation**, **Reva and David Logan Foundation**, and the **Whistleblower-Netzwerk (WBN)** and is supported by journalism and whistleblower organizations worldwide. Admission is free. **We appreciate your support through [donations](#).**

If you wish to attend in person, please register via [this link](#).

Andrés Olarte worked for Ecopetrol, Colombia’s largest company. The corporation, majority-owned by the state, primarily produces oil and gas. More than half of its output is exported and enters global supply chains.

He discovered that Ecopetrol contaminated water and wetlands and deliberately concealed pollution, illegally flared methane gas, and surveilled and retaliated against socio-environmental activists. He reported these issues to regulatory authorities, but nothing happened. Eventually, he contacted the EIA.

The international jury of the **€10,000 Ellsberg Whistleblower Award** highlighted: The case of Andrés Olarte exemplifies the extraordinary courage of a whistleblower taking immense personal risks to expose wrongdoing of vast scale and impact. For his integrity, Olarte faced severe consequences: intimidation, anonymous death threats, and ultimately exile in Europe. These sacrifices underscore his exceptional commitment to the public interest.

Join us in celebrating and supporting his courage!



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