



Operation: Payback



Saturday, November 20, 2010

Open Letter to Pirate Parties of United States of America and United Kingdom

Despite there apparently being some agreement made with the "leaders" of Operation: Payback, whereby if you were to write to us requesting cessation of our activities we would stop, we refuse to halt our actions. Any individuals who may have made such an agreement with you were acting on their own behalf and may be regarded as rogue elements.

Members of your organizations, the *Pirate Parties of the United States of America* ^[1] and the *United Kingdom* ^[2], have recently made statements about *Operation: Payback* ^[3]. With this statement we would like to make our stance on this issue clear.

- We reject the claims made by these Pirate Parties. However, we understand them. As political entities, they are governed by the laws of their jurisdictions. Civil disobedience is rarely appreciated by political parties.
- Anonymous and Operation Payback share values and goals - *i.e.* freedom of information, expression, and sharing - with the Pirate Parties, but we are absolutely *independent entities*.
- We will go on with our activities, despite the Pirate Parties of the United States of America and the United Kingdoms' objections, unless we come up with more efficient ways to better achieve our common goals.
- We do not share your belief that what we are doing is illegal; what is illegal in one country may be legal in another. We would prefer if you stopped trying to brand us as criminals. The group has no single base and is not bound to any particular jurisdiction.
- The reason for this operation should not be forgotten. This operation was born directly out of rage against the blatant double standards of a system which is prepared to criminalize our DDoSing, but turn a total blind eye to the first shots which were fired, by AiPlex, against The Pirate Bay, in a "hired guns" deal with the media cartels RIAA and MPAA. If they are going to start a dirty war, they are not morally entitled to criticize anyone who uses their own weapons in retaliation. We have *explicitly* announced before that our movement was not only targeted at The Pirate Bay's enemies, but all enemies of free speech, particularly internet neutrality, and we shall stay true to this cause.

- We are not concerned with legality, but with legitimacy. Those who decide our laws are the same people who decided that public copyright harassment, erosion of civil liberties and abominations of censorship such as COICA, ACTA, and the DEAct, are good and just things to enforce upon the populace. They do this whilst selectively enforcing their own laws when it comes to “official” organizations that take actions such as running a mass racketeering operation (knowingly suing thousands of individuals for infringement on bad evidence ^[4]) or DDoSing sites that are contrary to their interests (AiPlex). We do not recognize their “authority” due to this rank hypocrisy.

Finally, we recognize and respect the work of Pirate Parties and wish them luck. We hope that you all continue your fight as we are continuing ours.

People who agree with our philosophy can come to <irc://irc.anonops.net/operationpayback> to help us fight against the corporate and the political machinery.

Yours respectfully,
Operation Payback

[1] United States Pirate Party, <http://pirate-party.us>

[2] Pirate Party UK, <http://pirateparty.org.uk>

[3] <http://torrentfreak.com/pirate-parties-use-influence-to-halt-operation-payback-101120/>

[4] <http://torrentfreak.com/anti-piracy-lawyers-knew-they-targeted-innocent-victims-101118/>