

Luxemburger Wort

Protestors picket US embassy over whistle blower treatment



Photo: JB

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Protestors calling for a whistle blowing protection act in Europe held a peaceful demonstration outside of the US Embassy to Luxembourg on Saturday morning.

Around 25 people drawn from the Chaos Computer Club, the Green Party, the Left Party, the Pirate Party and the Student Collective gathered under the banner “Freedom not Fear” in what was their first joint demonstration this year.

“The main goal is to show solidarity with Edward Snowden and Bradley Manning and all the whistle blowers in the world fighting for this cause,” coordinator Jan Guth told wort.lu/en, adding: “There are still a lot of people who know secrets but they don't want to leak them because they are afraid of the consequences.”

The group gathered on the pavement opposite the US Embassy in Boulevard Emmanuel Servais where they gave speeches and chanted before launching paper airplanes with messages to the US ambassador over the fence.





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While the cases of whistle blowers Edward Snowden and Bradley Manning directly concern the US' policy towards freedom of information, Jan said that the need to expose so-called wrongdoing through whistle blowing was just as acute in Luxembourg.

When the recent secret service scandal was exposed resulting in new elections scheduled for this October, Jan noted that one politician at least had tried to prevent information from getting into the public domain.

“These things can't be allowed in a parliament. Laws should prevent this kind of censorship,” he said.

Around 10 police officers were present at the scene on Saturday, which ended as peacefully as it began.

The next “Freedom not Fear” demonstration is scheduled for September 28, at 3pm at Luxembourg Central Station.

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