

WE DEMAND AN EXPLANATION AND AN UNABRIDGED RATIONALE

ON THE STORK'S NEST DISCONTINUING

The Stork Nest (Čapí hnízdo) affair has stalled after four years. The rationale behind this decision is risible.

The Stork Nest was after all, we are told, a small company. It was clearly connected to Agrofert, but it didn't compete with it. What kind of explanation is this? Why should the Stork Nest compete with Agrofert in the first place? The question is surely whether it coordinated its actions with Agrofert, and it clearly did that. This looks like a quibble aimed at playing the whole affair off-field.

Discontinuing a prosecution in such a late phase is absolutely exceptional. Last year, 38 186 people were prosecuted in the Czech Republic. 814 cases were discontinued. Do you know how many cases were discontinued by the decision that no criminal act took place? Nine. Nine out of 38 thousand.

From the case at hand one gets the strong tang of a purposeful evasion and manipulation behind the scenes. It raises the following questions:

- **If Andrej Babiš knew** that everything was as it should be and that no attempt at fraud took place, why did he have to lie for so long, saying that he doesn't know who the farm belongs to?
- **Does this mean than any billionaire or conglomerate can designate a smaller company,** complicate its ownership somewhat, and then become the beneficiary of subsidies intended for small and medium-sized enterprises? What impact will such an interpretation have on other, similar cases?
- **Does there truly not exist the slightest doubt that a criminal act might be involved?** State prosecutors as a rule abide by the principle of suing when in doubt, and leaving the decision up to the court!
- **And finally: did finding out that the Stork Nest is actually a small company independent of Agrofert really take four years?**

WE REQUEST the prosecution authorities to dispel the doubt of the public and to thoroughly engage with the wealth of justified objections that are appearing in the public sphere.

WE FURTHER REQUEST the state prosecution authorities to make public the whole and unabridged rationale for its decision, because in a case that concerns the Prime Minister of the country this is in the public interest.

Andrej Babiš continues to remain in a huge conflict of interest which harms the whole country. As the de facto owner of Agrofert he affects many political decisions which influence the income of his companies. As a media magnate he influences public views in his favour. He continues to be investigated for possible tax evasion. And as the Prime Minister he can moreover recall the General Prosecutor, whose task it is to investigate the discontinuation of the investigation into Babiš. A situation like this is absurd.

It therefore continues to be absurd for someone like this to be the Prime Minister. Andrej Babiš is giving us more and more reasons for our gathering on 16th November on Letná Plain to take place not in a spirit of celebration, but of demonstration!