



# #FreeSamourai

On April 24 2024 the founders of open source privacy oriented **Samourai Wallet**, known as **Wallet Guy** and **TDevD**, were arrested by the FBI and all services have been shut down.

They were **indicted** and **charged** with "conspiracy to commit money laundering" and "conspiracy to operate an unlicensed money transmitting business".

While these charges might sound like Samourai Wallet was providing illegal services, the opposite is true. Samourai Wallet was following **FinCEN guidance** regarding virtual currencies and cannot be classified as a money transmitting business.

Moreover, Samourai Wallet didn't, at **any point in time**, have custody of user funds - a clear requirement, at least until now, to press these charges.

We believe that this is an attempt of the US Department of Justice to define **law through prosecution** of people deemed as enemies. If the DoJ succeeds in these endeavors, it would create a bad precedent that could impact the **whole Bitcoin ecosystem**.

Under this new precedent, **Lightning node operators** would be liable for funds flowing through their node. **Software developers** could be prosecuted for developing privacy-enhancing tools.

This fight is not just about **Samourai Wallet**. It is a fight for the **future of Bitcoin** and our freedoms.

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