Press document by Goliathwatch, 1st of March 2022

**Facebook blocks Goliathwatch – Inquiries by German newspaper TAZ denied**

**Hamburg NGO is banned to inform about disinformation and corporate power – Facebook motives unclear – TAZ press questions unanswered**

Hamburg, 1st of March 2022: On Tuesday, the TAZ reports on the blocking of Goliathwatch in the Hamburg section. Despite several requests from editor Lea Schulze, Facebook had not responded. Since Saturday, February 12, the Facebook page of the Hamburg association and its postings on fair digitization or human rights are no longer accessible via Facebook. By email, the Facebook successor group Meta-Europa has blocked the website of the Hamburg NGO Goliathwatch. Facebook justified the move on the grounds that Goliathwatch allegedly disseminated “fraudulent, misleading or illegal information”. “We don’t allow page information that is fraudulent, misleading or in violation of the law” (Facebook-Mail, Feb 12, 2022). Goliathwatch comments on current developments and reports on business and human rights, as similar posts on Twitter show (@goliathwatch)

Dr. Thomas Dürmeier, Managing Director of the non-governmental organization Goliathwatch: “Facebook probably wants to silence its critics and us. Transparency is wrong. We are banned from social media only because we have campaigned for fair digital election advertising and we demand stronger antitrust policies across Europe than in the USA. We must finally put effective legal limits on the democratic damage and human rights violations caused by Mark Zuckerberg’s corporate policy.”

“The legislature must finally set up an independent complaints body. The voluntary complaints body set up by Facebook falls far short of the standards of protection for the free public of the press council or the broadcasters”, demands Dr. Thomas Dürmeier of Goliathwatch.

Goliathwatch is part of the civil society alliance “Campaign-Watch” for a fair Bundestag election campaign, so that no one-sided electoral influence via social media happens, as rules for digital media are weaker than for election advertising on the street or on TV and radio. In addition, Goliathwatch, as part of the “Limit Group Power” alliance, advocates greater restraint on the market power of large corporations, such as Facebook or Bayer-Monsanto, because it harms other companies, consumers or wage earners.

News by TAZ from 1st of March 2022, accessable: <https://taz.de/!5835337/>

Sources and background on blocking by Facebook: [https://goliathwatch.de/**facebooksperre**/](https://goliathwatch.de/facebooksperre/)

Pictures avaible. <https://goliathwatch.de/presse/presseinfo/>

On Goliathwatch:

The Hamburg-based non-governmental organization Goliathwatch wants to promote democracy and limit the power of the corporate giants. Human rights and environmental protection should be strengthened. Goliathwatch was founded in 2017 and is funded by donations, sponsoring members and foundation funds. The latest campaign #digitaledemokratie – #fairstattfake was co-financed by the movement foundation.

Webpage Goliathwatch: www.goliathwatch.de

**Media contact:**

Dr. Thomas Dürmeier

Goliathwatch e.V.

E-Mail: duermeier@goliathwatch.de

22309 Hamburg

Germany

Fon: +49 177 428 2925