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### **Solana Policy Institute Stands with Roman Storm**

We created Solana Policy Institute (SPI) to ensure that policymakers understand public blockchains and the protocols that run on them. And why protecting the people – the developers – who build them matters.

Across the crypto ecosystem, developers collaborate globally and publish software that anyone can inspect, use, or improve. That openness is a strength, not a liability. Yet the case against Roman Storm treats this model of innovation as something suspect – by attempting to criminalize the act of writing and publishing open-source code – and in doing so, puts every open-source builder at risk.

The message this case sends is chilling: that contributing to software, advancing privacy-enhancing technology, or maintaining open source infrastructure could expose developers to criminal liability for actions entirely outside their control. That theory collapses the distinction between builders and bad actors. And it punishes people for writing lawful code rather than for committing crimes.

Open source software is the foundation of modern digital infrastructure. It secures networks, protects users, and enables permissionless innovation at global scale. Privacy-preserving technologies, in particular, play a critical role in safeguarding individuals, businesses, and communities in an increasingly digital world. These technologies protect sensitive data, secure transactions, and allow people to interact online without exposing themselves to surveillance, theft, or abuse. Treating these tools as inherently illicit reflects a profound misunderstanding of both their purpose and their value.

SPI has [consistently advocated](#) for clear, workable policy frameworks that distinguish between bad actors and the builders creating lawful, general-purpose tools. We have been unequivocal: writing code is an expressive act protected by the First Amendment, and developers should not be punished for publishing software that is legal on its face.

The case against Roman Storm is not an isolated dispute. It is a test of whether the United States will continue to support and lead in open innovation – or whether fear and misinterpretation will drive builders out of the system entirely.

We stand with the developer community.

We stand for innovation. For privacy. For constitutional protections.

We stand with Roman Storm.

Kristin Smith  
President  
Solana Policy Institute

Miller Whitehouse-Levine  
CEO  
Solana Policy Institute

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Smith".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miller Whitehouse-Levine".