6-23-2000

Trends. The Double Edged Sword of Transparency in Criminal and Civil Law: The Case of Euthanasia

Editor

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.erau.edu/ibpp

Part of the Civil Law Commons, Criminal Law Commons, Ethics and Political Philosophy Commons, European Languages and Societies Commons, Law and Philosophy Commons, and the Other Law Commons

Recommended Citation
Editor (2000) "Trends. The Double Edged Sword of Transparency in Criminal and Civil Law: The Case of Euthanasia," International Bulletin of Political Psychology: Vol. 8 : Iss. 21 , Article 5. Available at: https://commons.erau.edu/ibpp/vol8/iss21/5

This Trends is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Bulletin of Political Psychology by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact commons@erau.edu.
Political authorities in The Netherlands are seeking to decriminalize euthanasia under certain qualifications and criteria. According to a representative of the Health Ministry, one rationale for this move is that, if euthanasia remains a punishable offense, then transparency—i.e., a clear window into incidence, prevalence, and nature of euthanasia—will suffer. However, this appeal to transparency is problematic for at least two reasons.

First, the same logic could be equally applied to any criminal behavior, including theft, illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, and contract murder perpetrated by organized crime—the last a perfect description for euthanasia according to some analysts. Actually, not only could decriminalization facilitate transparency, but it would solve the problem of crime. Why? There would no longer be any crime.

Second, decriminalization would—in all likelihood—only induce a partial transparency as long as there would be associated qualifications and criteria because perpetrators and accomplices of euthanasia outside the limitations would shun the light of openness. To resolve this issue would take...more decriminalization, even legalization, with even less qualifications and criteria, and so on.