POD256 Episode 108 Breakdown: From Mixers to Miners – Why Samourai Wallet's Legal Fight Threatens Every Bitcoin User (and the Open-Source Mining Revolution Too)

A weekly 256 Foundation newsletter

256 FOUNDATION
MAR 18, 2026

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Live from Denver • March 18, 2026 • Hosts: [@econoalchemist](#), [@skot9000](#), [@tylerkstevens](#) *•*
Special guest: [Lauren Rodriguez](#)

Tech friends, if you care about on-chain privacy, self-custody, or even just running your own miner without Big Tech or governments flipping the kill switch — this episode is required listening. The live discussion hits hard: the imprisonment of Samourai Wallet devs Keonne Rodriguez (5 years) and William "Bill" Hill (4 years) isn't just about one wallet. It's a social-precedent that could criminalize *any* non-custodial privacy code… and the episode ties it straight to the open-source mining stack we all rely on for decentralization.

Here's the full tech-deep breakdown with diagrams, tables, recent X chatter, and exactly what you can do today.

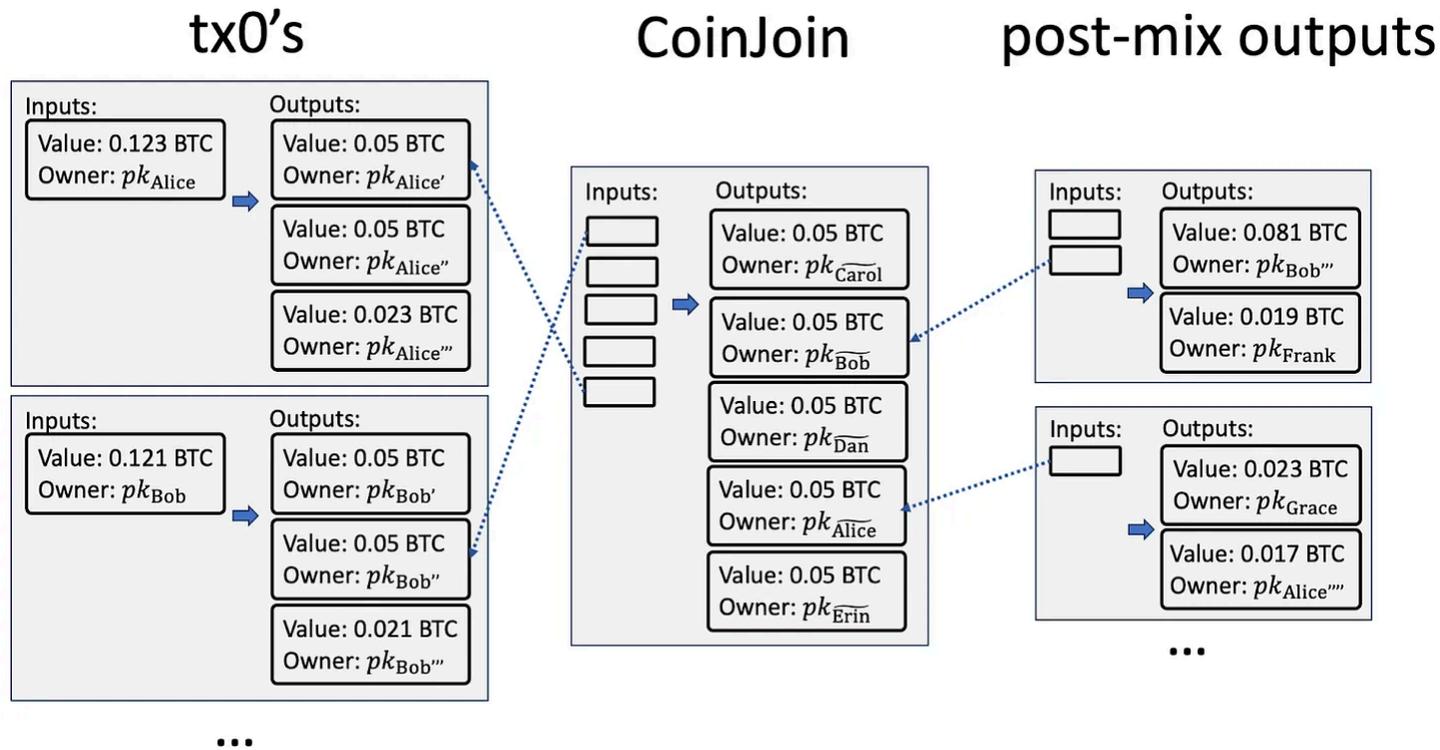## 1. The Samourai Story in One Sentence (Plus the Tech That Got Them Jailed)

Samourai wasn't a centralized mixer — it was a **non-custodial mobile wallet** with built-in privacy tools. Many users ran their own Dojo full node; Whirlpool did **Chaumian CoinJoin** (5-person anonymous mixes); Ricochet added extra hops; Stonewall broke heuristics. DOJ called it an "unlicensed money transmitter" anyway, seized servers in 2024, forced a plea in 2025, and locked the devs up. Forfeiture: 6.3Mpaid+250k in fines each. Keonne is serving time in Morgantown, WV and Bill in an undisclosed prison right now.

Samourai Privacy Stack – Quick Reference Table

Tool	What It Does	Tech Detail	Why It Matters for Bitcoin Fungibility
Whirlpool	5-person CoinJoin	Chaumian (coordinator can't steal or link)	Breaks common-input-ownership heuristic; post-mix tools keep privacy
Dojo	Personal full node backend	Runs on Ronin Dojo a variety of hardware or VPS	Zero trust — no third-party server spying
Ricochet	Extra "hops" before send	Multiple intermediate addresses	Defeats chain-analysis pattern matching
Stonewall	Fake "mix" on normal spends	Creates decoy outputs	Breaks Common Input Ownership Hueristic.

Samourai Wallet interface (pre-seizure) — clean, powerful, and now gone from app stores.
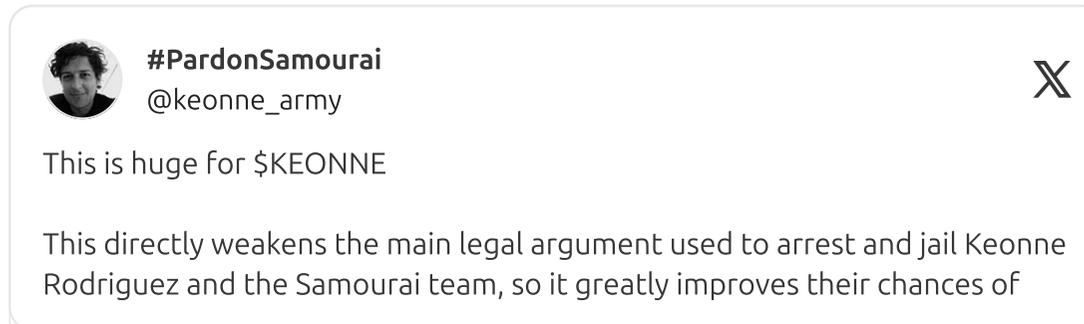
Whirlpool CoinJoin flow diagram: inputs → anonymous pool → post-mix outputs. No single entity can deanonymize.

2. Why This Case Threatens *All* of Bitcoin

- **Privacy precedent**: Even the U.S. Treasury just told Congress (March 2026) that "lawful users may leverage mixers for financial privacy." That directly undercuts the DOJ's theory — yet the devs are still in prison.

- **Open-source chilling effect**: Any dev shipping CoinJoin, Lightning privacy, or even advanced scripts could face the same "unlicensed transmitter" charge. Lightning compliance fears already mentioned in the episode. Going a step further, this novel legal theory could have implications for anyone using a software or hardware bitcoin wallet, running a node, or mining bitcoin; that's how insane this legal theory is.

- **Fungibility death**: Without CoinJoin, chain analysis firms (and governments) win. Bitcoin stops being cash-like, putting people at increased risk of targeted attacks.

- **Mining tie-in**: The same freedom-tech ethos powers open-source mining firmware. If devs can be jailed for privacy code, what stops the next attack on mining tools?

Related X Posts – **Real-Time Community Pulse** (**Latest as of today**) - @keonne_army (18 Mar): "This [Treasury report] directly weakens the main legal argument… so greatly improves their chances of getting a pardon! #PARDONSAMOURAI" (quoting Bitcoin Magazine on the Treasury win).

#PardonSamourai
@keonne_army

X

This is huge for $KEONNE

This directly weakens the main legal argument used to arrest and jail Keonne Rodriguez and the Samourai team, so it greatly improves their chances of

---

getting a pardon! ✊

#PARDONSAMOURAI

> 🔷 **Bitcoin Magazine** @BitcoinMagazine
>
> JUST IN: 🇺🇸 US Treasury reports to Congress that using Bitcoin and crypto privacy mixers are NOT unlawful:
>
> "Lawful users of digital assets may leverage mixers to enable financial privacy when transacting through public blockchains."
>
> Big win for privacy! 👏
>
> 1:05 PM · Mar 18, 2026 · 25 Views
>
> 1 Repost · 2 Likes

- @e4pool_com (today): "Dear Mr President… These two gentlemen have committed no crime. Their 'crime' is writing code that works too well. Please, pardon Keonne Rodriguez and William Hill today!" (links petition).

> **e4pool**
> @e4pool_com   𝕏
>
> Dear Mr President @realDonaldTrump @POTUS
>
> These two gentlemen have committed no crime. Their 'crime' is writing code that works too well.
>
> Please, pardon Keonne Rodriguez and William Hill today!

change.org/billandkeonne

#PardonSamourai

change.org

Sign the Petition

9:06 AM · Mar 18, 2026 · 112 Views

1 Repost · 6 Likes

- @SilasThornbrook (today): "FREE THEM TODAY! GIVE THEM THE PARDON THEY DESERVE! CODE IS NOT A CRIME! #PardonSamourai" with powerful graphic.

Silas Thornbrook
@SilasThornbrook

X

FOR @keonne AND @SamouraiDev

FREE THEM TODAY!

GIVE THEM THE PARDON THEY DESERVE!

CODE IS NOT A CRIME!

#PardonSamourai #FreeSamourai

7:26 PM · Mar 17, 2026 · 127 Views
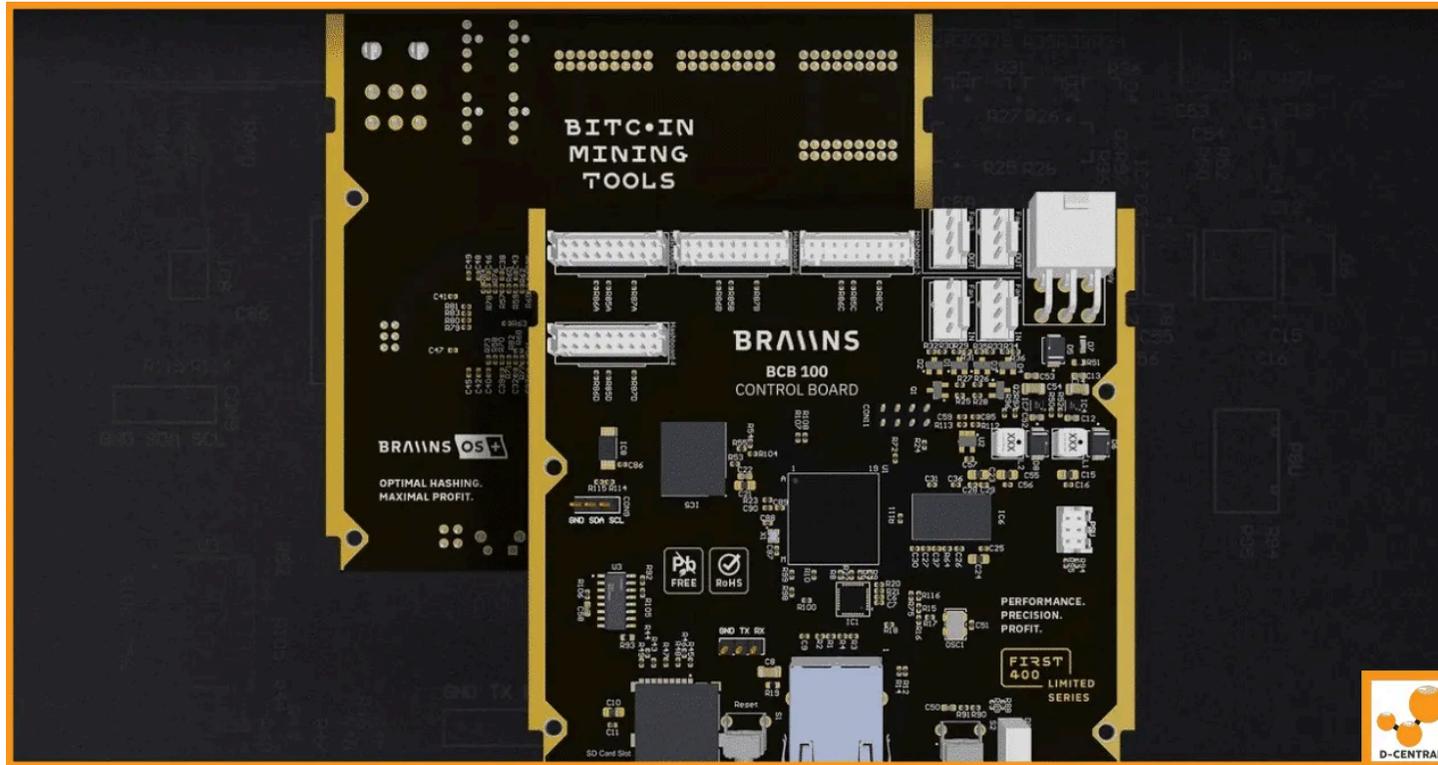
5 Reposts · 10 Likes

3. From Mixers → Miners: The Open-Source Mining Momentum

The episode pivots to the flip side of freedom tech: **Mujina firmware** (from the 256 Foundation) and Antminer hacks. This is the exact stack tech enthusiasts are running

right now to escape manufacturer lock-in and dev fees.

Stock vs. Mujina Firmware – Head-to-Head Table

Feature	Stock Bitmain Firmware	Mujina (Open-Source Linux/Rust)	Winner for Techies
Control	Locked, dev fees, no tweaks	Full fan/voltage/ASIC control	Mujina
Install	SD card only	Ethernet/USB flash via LuxOS (no SD needed)	Mujina
Drivers	Proprietary	Multi-ASIC (S19, Whatsminer, Avalon + EmberOne)	Mujina
Stratum	v1	Native Stratum v2	Mujina
Community	Manufacturer dictated	GitHub + OSMU Discord + AI-accelerated dev	Mujina

Example open-source control board (Braiins BCB-100 style) — the kind of hardware Mujina runs on stock Antminers.
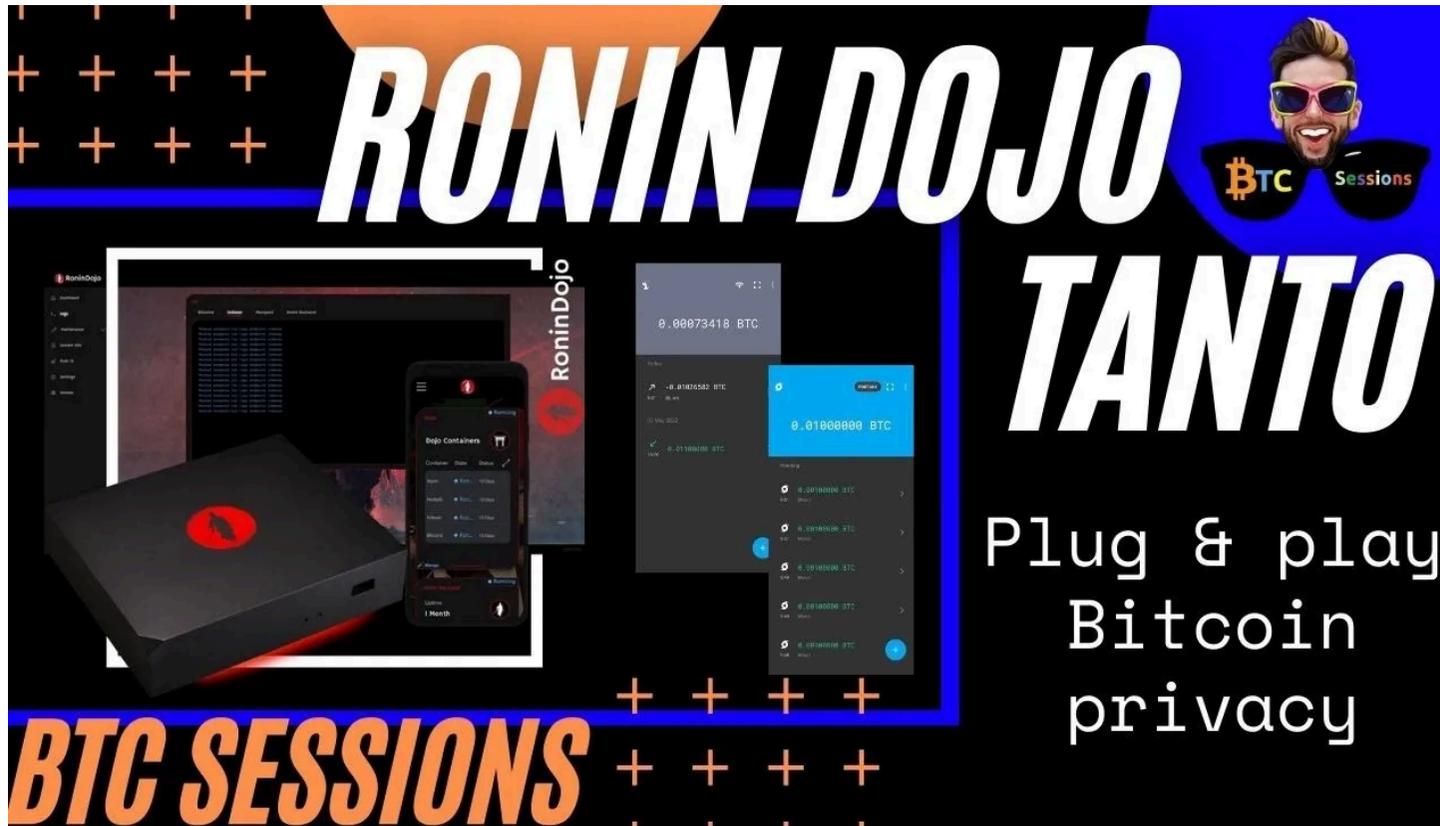
Custom firmware workflow illustration — exactly what Skot demoed live.

Bonus mentions: GrapheneOS shifts for secure miner phones, USB Wi-Fi hacks on Antminers, and AI speeding up firmware PRs. The 256 Foundation stack (Mujina + HydraPool + LibreBoard) is the path to truly decentralized hashrate.

4. Ronin Dojo – The Privacy Node That Ties It All Together

Samourai's Dojo backend runs perfectly on Ronin Dojo hardware: plug-and-play Bitcoin full node + Tor + Whirlpool coordinator in a box. Self-sovereignty in one device, see the video tutorial [here](#).

Ronin Dojo Tanto — the hardware node every privacy-maxing Bitcoiner should own.

5. What YOU can do RIGHT NOW (Tech Enthusiast Action Plan)

1. **Sign the pardon petition** → https://www.change.org/billandkeonne (or billandkeonne.org for full site + GiveSendGo family fund and cryptocurrency donation options).

2. **Write to Keonne** (he's publishing letters from prison — latest "The Skinwalker" just dropped by The Rage:

> Keonne Rodriguez 11404-511
>
> FPC Morgantown
>
> FEDERAL PRISON CAMP
>
> P.O. BOX 1000
>
> MORGANTOWN, WV 26507

Three or less pages, no art work allowed.

1. **Amplify on X/Nostr** with #PardonSamourai #FreeSamourai — tag @realDonaldTrump if you're feeling bold.

2. **Run the stack**: Install Sparrow/Electrum for recovery (Samourai seeds still work), spin up a Ronin Dojo or Mujina miner, test Ashigaru Whirlpool (community fork).

3. **Watch the fireside livestream** and support POD256 on Fountain/Zaprite.

Code is speech. Privacy is a feature, not a bug. Open-source mining is how we keep Bitcoin decentralized. The Samourai fight is *your* fight.

Stay sovereign. Sign the petition. Run a node. Mine openly. Repeat. 🟠

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3/18/26, 4:20 PM

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