



NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL

EXPLORATION MISSION TO TAJIKISTAN BY ISHR PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL

On 11 and 12 July, the President of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR), Prof. Thomas Schirrmacher, Prof. Christine Schirrmacher, Dr. Esther Schirrmacher and ISHR Secretary General Matthias Boehning visited Tajikistan for an exploration mission focused on the state of human rights in the Central Asian country.

During the two day's in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe, Schirrmacher and Boehning met with Ms. Salome Steib, Country Director of the Swiss representation in Tajikistan, the German Ambassador to Tajikistan, York Schuegraf, Ambassador Raimundas Karoblis, the head of the Delegation of the European Union to Tajikistan, Mr. Suhrob Shoev, National Programme Officer of the Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and Mr. Sergiy Shtukarin, Human Rights Advisor of the UN Resident Coordinator OLice (UNRCO) in Tajikistan. The insightful meetings underlined the ISHR leadership's assumptions, which had already been made in the run-up to the trip on the basis of research, that the human rights situation in Tajikistan is deteriorating and the civic space is becoming ever narrower. Shortly before the long-prepared handover of power from President Emomali Rahmon to his son, repression and fear are on the rise in the Central Asian country.

Exploration mission to Tajikistan by ISHR President and Secretary General | 2

Exploration mission to Tajikistan by ISHR President and Secretary General | 3

Exploration mission to Tajikistan by ISHR President and Secretary General | 4

Exploration mission to Tajikistan by ISHR President and Secretary General | 5

Exploration mission to Tajikistan by ISHR President and Secretary General | 6

Exploration mission to Tajikistan by ISHR President and Secretary General | 7

Exploration mission to Tajikistan by ISHR President and Secretary General | 8

the torture happens. And there is no sign of change yet for the first part of this horrific equation. It is the goal of the government to move on with the trials of the convicts as fast as possible and is seeking to get their confessions by any means necessary. But it is as Schirrmacher said: "These small changes change individual lives, but even greater - imagine what would happen to them if there would be no control from outside at all?"

All in all, the remarkable nation of Tajikistan with its natural wonders and resources, and above all precious population, is worth our time, focus and energy. By establishing trustworthy and reliable relations with organizations and individuals who are willing to stand up for the well-being of Tajikistan we are seeking to contribute in this endeavour, however humble the beginnings may be.

Source: [*Bonn Profiles*](#)