

SPEECH BY EDGAR LAMM



WELCOME BY IGFM CHAIRMAN EDGAR LAMM TO THE 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dear Mr. Federal President,
Dear Mr. Michael Brand, Member of Parliament,
Dear Ambassador Professor Shieh,
Dear Mr. Mayor Demirbas,
Dear Professor Ike,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On 8 April 1972, the International Society for Human Rights was founded in Frankfurt am Main. at the height of the Cold War. The foundation was also a reaction to the trivialisation of human rights violations in the GDR and Eastern Europe. We still remember well how inopportune it seemed to many in the 1970s and 1980s to criticise the communist tyranny in the immediate vicinity. It was - in today's words - politically incorrect to talk about it.

One can no longer imagine it today. But until 1988 - one year before the fall of the Wall - there were still efforts in the then Federal Republic to fulfil far-reaching demands of the SED:

Closure of the Central Registration Office in Salzgitter. GDR injustice, such as fatal shootings at the inner-German border, was documented there.

