

Vienna, 13 April 2010

Ombudsman community mourns Polish Human Rights Defender's tragic death

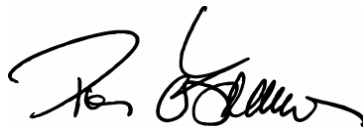
The International Ombudsman Institute, on behalf of all of its members, would like to express its deepest sympathy on the tragic death of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Poland, Dr Janusz Kochanowski. He was killed in a plane crash on 10 April 2010 when he was traveling to Russia with a presidential delegation to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre.

Colleague Kochanowski was a distinguished member of the International Ombudsman Institute since his election as Human Rights Defender in 2006. He was not only a brilliant law expert but also a man who stood proudly and defiantly for human rights and the rule of law through even the most difficult times.

Janusz Kochanowski's passing is a great loss for the International Ombudsman Institute and the international ombudsman community. Our thoughts go out to the staff of the Polish ombudsman institution and to Mr Kochanowski's family.



William Angrick
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