



VA-5201/0001-IK/2010

Vienna, 11 May 2010

Ombudsman community mourns Czech ombudsman's sudden death

The Public Defender of Rights of the Czech Republic, Dr Otakar Motejl, passed away on Sunday, 9 May 2010, following a brief illness. The International Ombudsman Institute, on behalf of all of its members, would like to express its deepest sympathy to the staff of the Czech Ombudsman Office as well as to Dr Motejl's family.

Dr Motejl was one of the most respected personalities in the Czech Republic. He was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic (1993 – 1998) and Minister of Justice (1998 – 2000) before becoming the country's first-ever ombudsman in 2000. Former President Vaclav Havel described him as 'a brave man who did not yield [to pressure] and who served justice for all his life.'

Colleague Motejl was a distinguished member of the International Ombudsman Institute since 2005. Otakar Motejl's passing is a great loss for the International Ombudsman Institute and the international ombudsman community. He will be greatly missed.

William Angrick
President

Peter Kostelka
Secretary General

Rafael Ribó
Regional Vice-President