



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
MATTER

30th of August International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

Litigation. Education. Advocacy

## HIGHLIGHTS

In August 2017, Human Rights Matter launched a campaign to raise awareness regarding the noble work done by individual HRDs in Tajikistan. These short biographies were shared in both English and Spanish on HRM's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.

In September 2017, HRM ended their educational project, SAHIR, conducted in the Tempelhofer Feld Camp.

In September 2017, Human Rights Matter participated in Berlin's Welcome Festival for Refugees at Templehofer Feld.

In October 2017, Human Rights Matter presented a workshop in partnership with Access Now, "A First Look at Digital Security", for Bard College students in Berlin.

In November of 2017, Human Rights Matter was a keynote speaker at The Berlin Human Rights Congress 2017: Human Rights and Democracy in Times of Greater Global Insecurity and where they gave a speech entitled, “**The Impact of Non-Governmental Promotion by Democratic Countries**”.

In December 2017, Human Rights Matter attended the **Civic Solidarity Platform** annual meeting in Vienna where they gave a talk before the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting.

In May 2018, Human Rights Matter attended the **Conference on Military Justice** in Kharkiv, Ukraine where they gave a presentation entitled, “Administration of Military Justice in Tajikistan”.

# INITIATIVES

## Human Rights Defenders Program

Digital security is a growing concern for data users in every field. For human rights defenders (HRD) in particular, the risks of information hacking, data stealing, and security breaches are potentially life-threatening. Human Rights Matter seeks to assist HRD in securely conducting their oftentimes dangerous work, and, in doing so, to help them digitally protect themselves and their families, friends, and clients from the danger of security breaches.

This entails acquiring safe hardware (cellphones and laptops) equipped with protected software to enable encrypted messaging and phone calls, connecting devices to protected intermediary internet servers, and providing educational trainings/guidebooks to promote the continuation of safe digital communication. This initiative will be conducted initially in a post-soviet country and will be expanded to include other countries and regions.

## Human Rights and Armed Forces Program

HRM e.V. seeks to contribute formalized recommendations for Tajik judiciary reform in civil society discussions. HRM will provide recommendations for imperative legal amendments the State should take to bring the Tajik military justice system in compliance with international human rights standards. These recommendations will promote the principles of independence, impartiality and competence.

# INTERNS

**Hannah Hutchinson** is an undergraduate student at Bard College in New York where she is a double major in Historical Studies and Film Production. She was awarded the Community Action Award from the Center for Civic Engagement Office (CCE) to come to Berlin for the month of July 2018 and work with Human Rights Matter. The grant is awarded to students who work with non-profit organizations dedicated to promoting human rights, social justice, and community outreach.

**Julie Dorval**, a French law student, did a two-month internship at Human rights matter under the Erasmus+ traineeship program which finances internships for students within Europe. After obtaining a double degree in law and languages in France, she is currently studying in Poland as a student of the two year LLM specialized in international and European law at Wroclaw university.

Two other Bard College New York fellows will join HRM e.V. in August and September of 2018.

# UNITED NATION NEWS

## June 2018. United Nation Committee against Torture - Tajikistan

The UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) published its concluding observations regarding the implementation of Conventions in Tajikistan. In its observation, CAT recommended an immediate end of impunity for torture and ill-treatment.

CAT advised the elimination all forms of ill-treatment and abuse in **military units**. Recommendations by CAT included critical measures such as accountability for perpetrators, adequate rehabilitation and compensation for victims, guaranteed access to Ombudsman in order to monitor military units, and prompt consideration of complaints by military servicemen.

In regards to **LGBTQI** individuals subjected to violence, the Committee implored the Tajikistan government to enact a legislative guarantee of equality, to publicly condemn instances of torture and ill-treatment committed by officials, and to give victims the opportunity to bring their abusers to justice through means of legal redress.

## EVENTS

### July 2018. Documentary Film about Asylum Seekers Camp in Berlin

Documentary film, Zentralflughafen THF, was released on July 5, 2018. The film by Karim Ainouz was shot in Tempelhof Camp, where HRM e.V. conducted the SAHIR Project. <http://www.zentralflughafen-thf.de/>

### Human Rights Defenders World Summit in Paris

From the 29th to 31st of September, the Human Rights Defenders World Summit will take place in Paris. With more than 150 HRDs from all over the world attending, this summit aims to create a platform for HRDs to share their critical work, raise awareness of dire issues worldwide, and promote HRDs appeal to the international community to strengthen commitments to protecting and supporting the important work HRDs conduct. <https://hrdworldsummit.org/>

# HUMAN RIGHTS CALENDAR

## AUGUST

**August 9** - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

**August 12** - International Youth Day

**August 23** - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition

**August 30** - International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances