

Assessment of the report

For the general assessment of the submitted report, the results from the investigations of Mrs. Ursula Raue and Mrs. Andrea Fischer, both commissioned by the Jesuits Order, were also taken into account. The two reports dealt elaborately with the allegations against Bernhard Ehlen [named as "Pater Christian" in the texts, but identifiable through the connection with Doctors for Developing Countries]. The links on the full reports can be found at the end of this statement.

Due to the complexity of the assignment as well as time factor and distance of the object of the investigation, on the basis of the report one cannot definitely conclude whether or not Bernhard Ehlen has committed any sexual violation within the scope of his work at Doctors for Developing Countries. The organization will have to live with this kind of uncertainty in its history. As long as there is no valid evidence presented, the presumption of innocence within the time frame of the investigation is applied, in accordance with the criminal law.

The facts and conclusions drawn from the report confirm the decision made in 2010 by the former Board of Managing Directors, the Executive Board and the Board of Trustees, to carry out the separation between Doctors for Developing Countries and its founder and longtime head, Bernhard Ehlen. In accordance with today's standards, the admission alone of Bernhard Ehlen to have committed sexual abuse in the past is ground enough to prohibit him to continue his work in an international humanitarian aid organization with direct contact to vulnerable groups and children. The further results of the investigation have likewise supported the correctness of this decision. Moreover, the report confirms the organization's progress in actively promoting the importance of child protection programs in its projects since February 2010.

Looking back at the history of the organization, and most of all, at the time since February 2010, we do not easily succumb to black-and-white thinking. Our aid organization was founded and established by Bernhard Ehlen. All people involved in this work over the years can only be thankful that this organization has given them the chance to help people in the so-called Third World countries in order to reduce absolute poverty and adversity. We now have to live with the other sides of the founder's personality that have become apparent through the facts and findings we have learned about since 2010 and these, from today's perspective, justify a separation. Everyone will have to find his own way on how to deal with these two contradictory aspects of personality. Those who decide to see only one aspect, regardless of which side it is, make it too easy for themselves.

Outlook

The report is a driving factor for us to continuously contribute to ensuring a safe environment for children and young people. These events have shown that we are sometimes caught unaware of the dangers occurring in our work. In some cases, the project staff's increased awareness has proven the success achieved in our efforts in establishing child protection policy. For instance, awareness on abuse among our target groups has developed, and in some cases, they were able to better protect children against further abuse.

Thanks

We thank Mrs. Maurer, Mrs. Von Weiler and Mrs. Burgmüller for their objective and constructive guidance in the last two years and for their readiness and efforts to accept and come up with such a report despite all the challenges involved in the work. We also thank the head of the Jesuits Order for

the support, which partly contributed to the making of this report. We thank our doctors, donors and supporters who objectively guided us and all the people involved in this emotionally difficult stage of our work, and who made sure that we continued and will continue our important work of helping people in dire poverty and adversity.

Dr. Elisabeth Kauder

Dr. Harald Kischlat

On behalf of the Supervisory Board

On behalf of the Board of Managing Directors

Ärzte für die Dritte Welt – German Doctors e.V.

Pls. also refer to:

www.jesuiten.org/fileadmin/Redaktion/Downloads/Bericht_27_05_2010_aktuell.pdf

www.jesuiten.org/fileadmin/Redaktion/Downloads/Fischer_bericht_Jesuitenorden.pdf