

# Bonner Querschnitte

## Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Phone: +49 / 4106 / 804806; Fax: +49 / 4106 / 804807  
E-Mail: [bq@bucer.de](mailto:bq@bucer.de); <http://www.bucer.org/bq.html>

*Released for free complete or partial reproduction*

## BQ 129 – Nr. 07/2010 (Eng)

### Evangelical Theologian visits the Grand Mufti of Istanbul

(Bonn, March 12, 2010) The Director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom and Chairman of the Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance, Professor Thomas Schirmmacher, has met with the Grand Mufti of Istanbul, Mustafa Çağrıçı, at the Grand Mufti's offices at the Suleiman Mosque in Istanbul. The invitation dates back to a time when the two met each other in the summer of 2009.

Çağrıçı, who is also a professor of Islamic theology, is one of the drafters of a letter from 138 Islamic leaders to leaders of Christianity around the world. Schirmmacher formulated the response letter for the World Evangelical Alliance. In the discussion between the two gentlemen, Schirmmacher campaigned for Ecumenical Patriarch and all Christians in Turkey. Çağrıçı assured Schirmmacher that he advocated a form of Islam that rejects coercion. He expressed hope that Turkey's entry into the European Union would lead to more freedom of religion in Turkey.

On the day prior to the visit, Schirmmacher had conducted talks with Prof. Dr. Ingo Hofmann, the Commissioner for

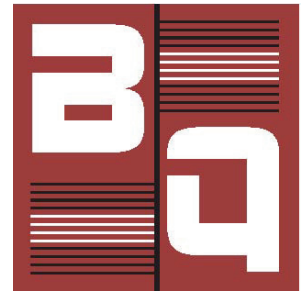
Foreign Affairs of the German Bahá'í community and its spokesman for questions dealing with human rights violations. On various occasions the International Institute for Religious Freedom has spoken out against the persecution of Bahá'í, especially in Iran.

Regarding the question as to whether his conversations with religious leaders is an indication that the World Evangelical Alliance is making a content-related rapprochement towards other religions, Schirmmacher pointed to the World Evangelical Alliance's Resolution on Religious Freedom. This states that the theological assessment of other religions and advocating peaceful coexistence are independent of each other. "Religious freedom and peaceful coexistence," according



**Bonner Querschnitte** *Bonn Profiles – Press Reports*

**Text & Technology:**  
Titus Vogt (ViSdP)  
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau  
Phone: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06  
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07  
E-Mail: [Titus.Vogt@bucer.de](mailto:Titus.Vogt@bucer.de)



**A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:**

Institute for Prolife and Family Studies  
[www.bucer.de/ilfw](http://www.bucer.de/ilfw)

Institute for Emergency Counseling, Terminal Care and Grief Counseling  
[www.bucer.de/ist](http://www.bucer.de/ist)

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance  
[www.ead.de/akref](http://www.ead.de/akref)

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[www.iirf.eu](http://www.iirf.eu)

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[www.islaminstitute.net](http://www.islaminstitute.net)

Theological Commission of "Hope for Europe" (European Evangelical Alliance)  
[www.hfe.org](http://www.hfe.org)

Martin Bucer Seminary  
[www.bucer.de](http://www.bucer.de)

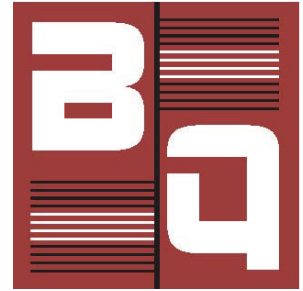
Pro Mundis e. V.  
[www.bucer.de/ilfw](http://www.bucer.de/ilfw)

Giving Hands – International Charity  
[www.gebendehaende.de](http://www.gebendehaende.de)

Culture and Science Publ.  
[www.vkwoonline.de](http://www.vkwoonline.de)

# Bonner Querschnitte

## Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



to Schirmmacher's own words, "are precisely not based on the idea of unity with regards to content. Otherwise, there never would have been intra-Christian religious freedom in Europe." Apart from that, he advocates a situation where specifically those people with differing views need to be in personal dialog. Personal trust helps to bring about peace and resolve difficult situations, and it is an important precondition for serious discussions about one's own faith.

### Downloads:

- 1st Photo: Prof. Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher with Mustafa Çağrıçı
- 2nd Photo: Prof. Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher with Mustafa Çağrıçı

### A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Institute for Prolife and Family Studies  
[www.bucer.de/ilfw](http://www.bucer.de/ilfw)

Institute for Emergency Counseling, Terminal Care and Grief Counseling  
[www.bucer.de/ist](http://www.bucer.de/ist)

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance  
[www.ead.de/akref](http://www.ead.de/akref)

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[www.iirf.eu](http://www.iirf.eu)

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[www.islam institute.net](http://www.islam institute.net)

Theological Commission of "Hope for Europe" (European Evangelical Alliance)  
[www.hfe.org](http://www.hfe.org)

Martin Bucer Seminary  
[www.bucer.de](http://www.bucer.de)

Pro Mundis e. V.  
[www.bucer.de/ilfw](http://www.bucer.de/ilfw)

Giving Hands – International Charity  
[www.gebende haende.de](http://www.gebende haende.de)

Culture and Science Publ.  
[www.vkwo nline.de](http://www.vkwo nline.de)

*Released for free complete or partial reproduction*

### DOWNLOADS OF GRAPHICS AND OF COMMUNICATION

<http://www.bucer.org/bq.html>

### SUBSCRIBING OR UNSUBSCRIBING BONN PROFILES

If you want to begin receiving or no longer wish to receive the Bonn Profiles, please send us an e-mail.

### Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

#### Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)  
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau  
Phone: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06  
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07  
E-Mail: [Titus.Vogt@bucer.de](mailto:Titus.Vogt@bucer.de)