

# Bonner Querschnitte

## Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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### BQ 466 – No. 05/2017

## Volkmar Klein and Thomas Schirmmacher visit the Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South / Central Asia in the State Department in Washington

(Bonn, 23.02.2017) During their participation in the 2017 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, two members of the Central Council of Oriental Christians in Germany (Zentralrat Orientalischer Christen in Deutschland, or ZOCD), namely Volkmar Klein, Member of the German Bundestag, and the Director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF), Thomas Schirmmacher, met with the Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South / Central Asia, Knox Thames. He is presently the highest ranking official working on the topic of religious freedom in the State Department. Thames reported on his most recent trips, while Klein and Schirmmacher reported on the Berlin Conference of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief and initiatives taken by the ZOCD.

In addition, Klein and Schirmmacher met separately and jointly in Washington with numerous politicians, researchers, and experts associated with the topic of religious freedom, consequently with the King of Jordan, Abdullah II. bin al-Hussein, with parliamentary representatives of the Balkans, with the Foreign Minister of Togo, with the Sudanese Ambassador as well as making an annual visit to see Frank Wolf, who represented Arlington in the United States House of Representatives from 1980 to 2015, initiated numerous religious liberty laws, and has founded the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative since entering retirement. The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative is a research institute for matters relating to religious liberty which became known through a report on Nigeria by Nathan Wineigner.

Klein and Schirmmacher both welcomed the fact that President Donald Trump has greatly emphasized the meaning of religious freedom for all religions. At the same time, they expressed their apprehension that the topic could easily be misused and



In the State Department (from left to right): Thomas Schirmmacher, Knox Thames, Volkmar Klein © IIRF Schirmmacher / Warnecke



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

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

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

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

Help Worldwide – International Charity  
[www.hilfe-weltweit.de](http://www.hilfe-weltweit.de)

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

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

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

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

Pro Mundis e. V.  
[www.thomasschirmmacher.net](http://www.thomasschirmmacher.net)

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

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/](http://www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/)

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that previous actions could yield contrary results, for instance by limiting the number of legal refugees to 50,000.

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- [Foto 3](#): Volkmar Klein and Thomas Schirmmacher with the foreign minister of Togo © IIRF Schirmmacher / Warnecke
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- [Foto 5](#): The ball room of the National Prayer Breakfast during the speech of the King of Jordan © IIRF Schirmmacher / Warnecke © IIRF Schirmmacher / Warnecke
- [Foto 6](#): In the Embassy of Sudan (from left to right): Deborah Fikes [UN-envoi of the WEA], Thomas Schirmmacher, Ambassador Maowia O. Khalid, Bishop Efraim Tendero [Secretary General of the WEA] © IIRF Schirmmacher / Warnecke
- [Foto 7](#): Donald Trump during the National Prayer Breakfast talking to Mike Burnett and the Chief Rabbi © IIRF Schirmmacher / Warnecke
- [Foto 8](#): The limousine of the President during the National Prayer Breakfast © IIRF Schirmmacher / Warnecke
- [Foto 9](#): The limousine of the President during the National Prayer Breakfast between the police escort © IIRF Schirmmacher / Warnecke



With the King of Jordan, Abdullah II. bin al-Hussein © IIRF Schirmmacher / Warnecke

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