

# Bonner Querschnitte

## Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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## BQ 642 – No. 24/2020

### Christine Schirmmacher reappointed to the German Institute for Human Rights by the Federal Parliament

(Bonn, 04.05.2020) Christine Schirmmacher, scholar of Islamic Studies at the University of Bonn (Germany) and the Theological Faculty Leuven (Belgium) has recently been reappointed to the Board of Trustees of the German Institute for Human Rights (Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, or DIMR) in Berlin as a representative for academic institutions related to human rights. All parties of the Parliament unanimously voted in favor of Christine Schirmmacher who has been proposed to serve for a second term by the two ruling parties, CDU and SPD.

The Director of the Institute, Professor Dr. Beate Rudolf, who prior to her present post had taught public law, international law, European law, and gender equality law in Düsseldorf and Berlin, congratulated Schirmmacher because of her reappointment. Schirmmacher will belong to the body for another four years. Serving on the Board of Trustees is limited to two times four years.

The 18 member board, to which representatives from civil society, academia, the media, and politics belong, establish the content-oriented guidelines for the work conducted by the institute. In accordance to a June 2015 law addressing the legal position and duties of the German Institute for Human Rights, Schirmmacher belongs to a group of four individuals appointed by the German Parliament (Bundestag) through its Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid. In addition to Schirmmacher, the German Parliament appointed Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski (Center for Human Rights Erlangen-Nuremberg, or CHREN) as representatives for academic institutions with a human rights connection. Furthermore, Martin Lessenthin, board spokesman for the International Society for

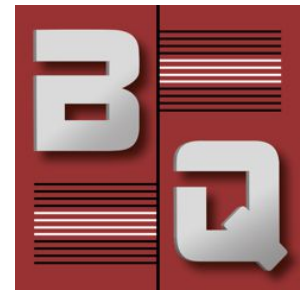


Christine Schirmmacher © Evangelical Theological Faculty Leuven

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Human Rights (Internationale Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte, or IGfM), and Dr. Anja Nordmann of the National Council of German Women's Organizations (Deutscher Frauenrat) were appointed as representatives of civil society.

The German Institute for Human Rights is a body of civil society with headquarters in Berlin. As an independent national human rights institution in the sense of the United Nations' Paris Principles, it is to inform the public of the domestic and international human rights situation as well as contribute to the promotion of and protection of human rights. The Institute implements these goals through political consulting, research, human rights education, and information as well as documentation. A particular concern of the institute is to make international and European mechanisms of human rights protection in Germany better known and more useful.

The Institute is a non-profit organization and politically independent. It is financed out of the federal budget of the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs as well as the German Federal Foreign Office. In order to safeguard the independence of the Institute, the financing ministries have no voting rights on the board of trustees.



The headquarter of DIMR in Berlin © Assenmacher CC BY-SA 3.0

On various occasions, Christine Schirmacher has been invited as an expert in connection with hearings on human rights questions in the German Parliament and has grappled with human rights questions in research and publications. She has published repeatedly on Islamic human rights declarations, on women's rights, on the rights of minorities as well as freedom of religions and worldviews in countries characterized by Islam. Recently she published the book *'The Oppression of Women'* [Original title: *'Unterdrückte Frauen'*] and her revised postdoctoral thesis *'Let there be no Compulsion in Religion (Sura 2:256): Apostasy from Islam as judged by contemporary Islamic Theologians'*, as well as the compendium *'Can Freedom Be Unlimited? Examples of Censorship in Middle Eastern Societies in the 19th and 20th Centuries'* (with Haggag Ali and Stephan Conermann) and the essay *'A Discourse on Human Rights and Civil Rights and Liberties in Muslim-Majority Societies'* in the Polish Yearbook of Oriental Studies.

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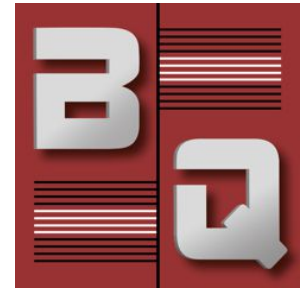
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- Christine Schirmmacher, Haggag Ali, Stephan Conermann (Ed.). *Can Freedom Be Unlimited? Examples of Censorship in Middle Eastern Societies in the 19th and 20th Centuries*. EB-Verlag: Berlin, 2017. ISBN: 978-3-86269-113-5.
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- Christine Schirmmacher, Thomas Schirmmacher. *Unterdrückte Frauen*. SCM Hänssler, Holzgerlingen, 2014. ISBN 978-3-7751-5480-2.

### Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** Christine Schirmmacher © Evangelical Theological Faculty Leuven
- **Photo 2:** The headquarter of DIMR in Berlin © Assenmacher CC BY-SA 3.0
- The election in the German Bundestag (39:39 bis 40:10): <https://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2020/kw10-de-wahl-gremien-682632>
- Plenary Minutes of the Bundestag (p. 18618): <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btp/19/19149.pdf>
- Press release of the German Bundestag: <https://www.bundestag.de/presse/hib/682474-682474>
- Bundestag printed matter 19/17116: <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/19/171/1917116.pdf>
- Press release of the IGFM: <https://www.igfm.de/martin-lessenthin-vorstandssprecher-igfm-in-kuratorium-des-dimr-gewaehlt/>
- Prof. Dr. Christine Schirmmacher at the University Bonn: <https://www.ioa.uni-bonn.de/de/inst/isl/pers/prof.-dr.-christine-schirmmacher/prof.-dr.-christine-schirmmacher>
- Writings on human rights by Christine Schirmmacher: <https://christineschirmmacher.info/tag/menschenrechte/>
- *‘Islamische Menschenrechtserklärungen und ihre Kritiker’* publication at the University Trier: [https://christineschirmmacher.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/2007\\_39\\_Schirmmacher\\_RF-Trier.pdf](https://christineschirmmacher.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/2007_39_Schirmmacher_RF-Trier.pdf)
- *‘Die Rolle der Frauen im Islamismus’*: <https://www.bpb.de/politik/extremismus/islamismus/268747/die-rolle-der-frauen-im-islamismus>
- *‘Der Umgang mit IS-Rückkehrerinnen: Neuland für unsere Gesellschaft und ihre Institutionen’*: <https://www.bpb.de/politik/extremismus/islamismus/268745/der-umgang-mit-is-rueckkehrerinnen>

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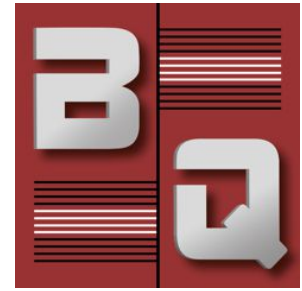
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- Written answers to the questionnaire of the Committee for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the German Bundestag for the Public Hearing on 2 December 2015 on the topic: Freedom of Religion and Development of Democracy (in German): [https://www.bundestag.de/resource/blob/485924/1d7ef393365f72962f44f1dc4ff31639/stellungnahme\\_schirmmacher-data.pdf](https://www.bundestag.de/resource/blob/485924/1d7ef393365f72962f44f1dc4ff31639/stellungnahme_schirmmacher-data.pdf)
- Christine and Thomas Schirmmacher catch up on human rights in Ecuador and Peru: <https://www.thomasschirmmacher.net/blog/christine-and-thomas-schirmmacher-catch-up-on-human-rights-in-ecuador-and-peru/>
- Download of 'Let there be no Compulsion in Religion' (Sura 2:256). *Apostasy from Islam as Judged by Contemporary Islamic Theologians. Discourses on Apostasy, Religious Freedom, and Human Rights*: [https://christineschirmmacher.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Let\\_there\\_be\\_no\\_Compulsion\\_in\\_Religion\\_full\\_text.pdf](https://christineschirmmacher.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Let_there_be_no_Compulsion_in_Religion_full_text.pdf)

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