

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Phone: +49 4106 804806 • Fax: +49 4106 804807
Email: info@bonn-profiles.net • <https://bonn-profiles.net>

Released for free complete or partial reproduction.

BQ 933 – No. 38/2026

WEA Secretary General speaks about Evangelical priorities at the International Religious Freedom Roundtable

(Bonn, 01.06.2026) The president of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF), Thomas Schirmmacher, represented the EU Religious Freedom Roundtable in Brussels at the International Religious Freedom Roundtable in Washington, D.C. He delivered an official report in his capacity as Chair of the European counterpart of the Roundtable, which took place in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room (Room 325) of the US Senate's Russell Senate Office Building. Following his speech, he had the privilege of introducing his successor as Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), Botrus Mansour, to the global religious freedom community. On this occasion, we reprint the following press release by the World Evangelical Alliance.



The International Religious Freedom Roundtable, Botrus Mansour at the right corner, Thomas Schirmmacher in the middle of the front wall © BQ/Martin Warnecke

Press release by the World Evangelical Alliance

Washington, D.C.—World Evangelical Alliance Secretary General Reverend Advocate Botrus Mansour recently spoke on evangelical priorities during the International Religious Freedom Roundtable held in Washington, D.C. The speech took place in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room (Room 325) of the Russell Senate Office Building, a venue widely recognized for landmark congressional hearings and moments of national significance. Following remarks by Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher, former Secretary

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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



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

Bonn Abrahamic Center for Global Justice, Peace and Sustainability

Business Coalition of the World Evangelical Alliance (Bonn, Hamburg) business.worlddea.org

Evangelical Missiology, Journal of missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (Evangelical Alliance in Germany) missiotop.org

Evangelical Review of Theology (New York, Bonn) theology.worlddea.org/evangelical-review-of-theology

Giving Hands – International Charity (Bonn) gebende-haende.de

Institut für Islamfragen der Deutschen, Schweizer und Österreichischen Allianz (IfI) islaminstitut.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) (Bonn) islaminstutute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) (Bonn, Vancouver, San José – Costa Rica) iirf.global

International Journal for Religious Freedom (IJRF) (Bonn/Toronto) ijrf.org

International Secretariat of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) ishr.org

Islam and Christianity journal.islaminstutute.net

Martin Bucer Seminary (Munich, Zürich, Tirana, São Paulo, Helsinki, Istanbul) bucer.org

SOS World (Brussels) sosworld.be/page-daccueil

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance europeanea.org

Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft (VKW) (Culture and Science Publ.) vkwonline.com

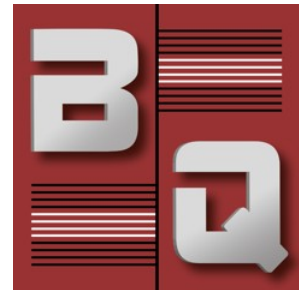
WEA book series: Global Issues Series / World of Theology Series theology.worlddea.org/global-issues
theology.worlddea.org/world-of-theology

WEA Sustainability Center wea-sc.org

Yearbook Persecution and Discrimination of Christians and Yearbook Religious Freedom iirf.global/jahrbuch

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



General of the World Evangelical Alliance, Rev. Mansour's address was welcomed by attendees with sustained applause.

In his remarks, Rev. Mansour spoke on behalf of the more than 600-million-member global evangelical community represented by the World Evangelical Alliance, reaffirming its commitment to the gospel and to the dignity of every human being. The address marked a significant moment for the new leader of the World Evangelical Alliance as the organization strengthens its global advocacy efforts and partnerships in defense of religious freedom and human dignity. WEA Advocacy Director Dr. Kyle Wisdom and UN Acting Permanent Representative Dr. Jason Pope were in attendance alongside Rev. Mansour. Addressing a central question often raised in religious freedom discussions, Rev. Mansour reflected on how a faith with exclusive truth claims can authentically advocate for religious freedom for all. Religious belief can only be genuine when religious freedom exists. "A choice for faith that is coerced and does not genuinely come from the heart is no faith at all." Religious freedom, he noted, "is not a privilege granted by the state but a fundamental human right that comes from God and protects belief, disbelief, and peaceful expression alike." He underscored that advocacy for religious freedom is rooted not in political expediency, but in deeply held moral and theological convictions. Rev. Mansour also highlighted the work of the World Evangelical Alliance advocacy department, particularly its engagement at the United Nations in Geneva and New York City, where the WEA continues to raise concerns related to freedom of religion or belief and broader human rights issues affecting evangelical communities worldwide.



Botrus Mansour, Secretary General of WEA, Habib Ephrem, Advisor to the President of Lebanon, Thomas Schirmmacher, at the International Religious Freedom Roundtable © BQ/Martin Warnecke

Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** The International Religious Freedom Roundtable, Botrus Mansour at the right corner, Thomas Schirmmacher in the middle of the front wall © BQ/ Martin Warnecke

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

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

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

Bonn Abrahamic Center for Global Justice, Peace and Sustainability

Business Coalition of the World Evangelical Alliance (Bonn, Hamburg) business.worlddea.org

Evangelical Missiology, Journal of missiotope – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (Evangelical Alliance in Germany) missiotope.org

Evangelical Review of Theology (New York, Bonn) theology.worlddea.org/evangelical-review-of-theology

Giving Hands – International Charity (Bonn) gebende-haende.de

Institut für Islamfragen der Deutschen, Schweizer und Österreichischen Allianz (IfI) islaminstitut.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) (Bonn) islaminststitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) (Bonn, Vancouver, San José – Costa Rica) iirf.global

International Journal for Religious Freedom (IJRF) (Bonn/Toronto) ijrf.org

International Secretariat of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) ishr.org

Islam and Christianity journal.islaminststitute.net

Martin Bucer Seminary (Munich, Zürich, Tirana, São Paulo, Helsinki, Istanbul) bucer.org

SOS World (Brussels) sosworld.be/page-daccueil

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance europeanea.org

Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft (VKW) (Culture and Science Publ.) vkwonline.com

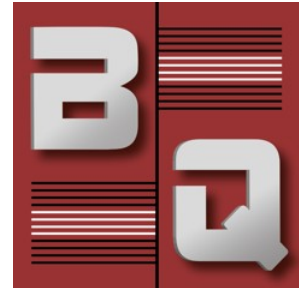
WEA book series: Global Issues Series / World of Theology Series theology.worlddea.org/global-issues
theology.worlddea.org/world-of-theology

WEA Sustainability Center wea-sc.org

Yearbook Persecution and Discrimination of Christians and Yearbook Religious Freedom iirf.global/jahrbuch

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



- **Photo 2:** International Religious Freedom Roundtable im Senat der USA – Thomas Schirmmacher spricht, links Robert Rehak, Slowenien, Vorsitzender IRFBA, und Erzbischof Yevstraty der Orthodoxen Kirche der Ukraine © BQ/ Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 3:** Botrus Mansour, Secretary General of WEA, Habib Ephrem, Advisor to the President of Lebanon, Thomas Schirmmacher, at the International Religious Freedom Roundtable © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 4:** Botrus Mansour, Secretary General der WEA, Erzbischof Dr. Vicken Aykazian, armenischer Erzbischof und stellvertretender Vorsitzender des Präsidiums des ÖRK, International Religious Freedom Roundtable © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- Press release by the World Evangelical Alliance: <https://worlddea.org/wea-secretary-general-speaks-about-evangelical-priorities-at-the-international-religious-freedom-roundtable/>

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

Bonn Abrahamic Center for Global Justice, Peace and Sustainability

Business Coalition of the World Evangelical Alliance (Bonn, Hamburg) business.worlddea.org

Evangelical Missiology, Journal of missiopot – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (Evangelical Alliance in Germany) missiopot.org

Evangelical Review of Theology (New York, Bonn) theology.worlddea.org/evangelical-review-of-theology

Giving Hands – International Charity (Bonn) gebende-haende.de

Institut für Islamfragen der Deutschen, Schweizer und Österreichischen Allianz (IfI) islaminstitut.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) (Bonn) islamintstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) (Bonn, Vancouver, San José – Costa Rica) iirf.global

International Journal for Religious Freedom (IJRF) (Bonn/Toronto) ijrf.org

International Secretariat of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) ishr.org

Islam and Christianity journal.islamintstitute.net

Martin Bucer Seminary (Munich, Zürich, Tirana, São Paulo, Helsinki, Istanbul) bucer.org

SOS World (Brussels) sosworld.be/page-daccueil

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance europeanea.org

Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft (VKW) (Culture and Science Publ.) vkwonline.com

WEA book series: Global Issues Series / World of Theology Series theology.worlddea.org/global-issues
theology.worlddea.org/world-of-theology

WEA Sustainability Center wea-sc.org

Yearbook Persecution and Discrimination of Christians and Yearbook Religious Freedom iirf.global/jahrbuch

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

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

