

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 941 – Nr. 46/2026

Thomas Schirmmacher meets the representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Germany

(Bonn, 28.07.2026) Thomas Schirmmacher, President of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) and the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF), met in Berlin with Dilshad Barzani, the representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Germany, at his office near the German Bundestag for an in-depth discussion. The two men were already acquainted from previous meetings.

The discussion centred on political and social developments in the Kurdistan Regional Government, its constitutional status within Iraq, and prospects for the region's future. Schirmmacher outlined his views – which he has publicly advocated for decades – on the Kurdish people's right to self-determination and on the future of Kurdistan. In addition, issues relating to human rights, freedom of religion and the protection of religious and ethnic minorities were discussed.



Bishop Thomas Schirmmacher with Dilshad Barzani, the representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Germany © IIRF/Thomas Schirmmacher

Schirmmacher reported on his recent trips to the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and on his meetings with Kurdish government representatives, religious leaders and representatives of civil society. He praised the KRG for providing protection to members of many religious minorities who had fled to the KRG from neighbouring countries. He also spoke about his lectures and meetings with the Kurdish community in Germany.

The meeting built on Schirmmacher's decades-long commitment to the Kurds. Since the 1980s, he has been publishing academic works on Kurdistan and the Kurds, campaigning for the rights of the Kurdish people as well as for religious freedom and the protection of persecuted minorities, and maintaining close contacts with Kurdish institutions and leaders.

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 4106 804806
Fax: +49 4106 804807
Email: info@bonn-profiles.net



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) islaminstitut.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.islaminstitut.net

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

SOS World (Brussels) sosworld.be

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 theology.worlddea.org/global-issues
World of Theology Series 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



The conversation took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

The photograph shows Thomas Schirmmacher with Dilshad Barzani, the representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Germany, at the representative office in Berlin. In the background is a portrait of his father, Mustafa Barzani, the historic leader of the Kurdish national movement and the spiritual founder of today's Kurdistan Regional Government.

Downloads and Links

- **Photo:** Bishop Thomas Schirmmacher with Dilshad Barzani, the representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Germany © IIRF/Thomas Schirmmacher
- BQ 919 – 24/2026 “KGD’s Newroz reception in Berlin, attended by Ramelow, Prien, Aras and Schirmmacher”: <https://bonn-profiles.net/?p=12348>
- Press release and photo gallery on the Berlin Newroz reception: <https://thomasschirmmacher.net/?p=25338>

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) 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

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 theology.worlddea.org/global-issues
World of Theology Series 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, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 4106 804806
Fax: +49 4106 804807
Email: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de