

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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BQ 185 – No. 31/2011

Council for the Protection and Promotion of Religious Freedom makes impact

IIRF represented on executive

(Bonn/Stellenbosch, 22.11.2011) The International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) participated in the First Annual General Meeting of the South African Council for the Protection and Promotion of Religious Rights and Freedoms, held at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. The Council consists of the signatories, of the South African Charter for Religious Rights and Freedoms.

67 religious bodies and organizations, including numerous Christian denominations and various influential individuals representing together approximately 8-10 million out of about 50 million inhabitants of South Africa have so far signed the Charter.

The co-director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom, Dr. Christof Sauer (Cape Town, South Africa) comments: "The Charter is an international novelty and uses the opportunity provided by the South African Constitution for civil society to collectively spell out specific rights as they see them in a charter instead of their establishment over a long period of time through case law. It is now crucial that the right avenues will be found in order that parliament will enact the Charter into law."

He added: "Already the Charter is finding interest and emulation in other African countries. The enactment would create an international model that could have a wide impact."

Rev. Moss Nthla, the General Secretary of The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa (TEASA), also a board member of the Cape Town Bureau of the International Institute for Religious Freedom, was elected as one of nine members of the Executive of the said Council. Both TEASA and IIRF are signatories to the Charter and have given their input into its drafting.

The Chairperson of the Council is Stellenbosch Professor emeritus for church and law, Dr. Pieter Coertzen.

Links and Downloads:

- South African Charter for Religious Rights and Freedoms, including an article by Iain T Benson describing its constitutional framework, formation and challenges ([IJRF Vol 4 Issue 1, 125-134](#))
- [Repository of documents related to the Charter](#)

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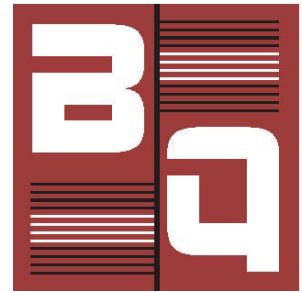
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A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

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www.ead.de/akref

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www.vkwonline.de

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www.gebende-haende.de

Help Worldwide – International Charity
www.hilfe-weltweit.org

Institute for Emergency Counselling, Terminal Care and Grief Counselling
www.bucer.de/ist

Institute for Prolife and Family Studies
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International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.iirf.eu

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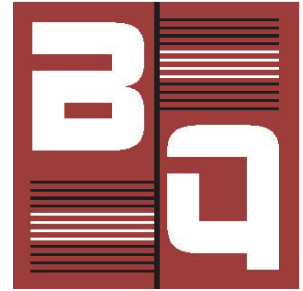
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