

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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Vietnamese Institute for Human Rights: Expert Discussion at the IGFM

(Bonn, 23.10.2017) Upon request of the German Foundation for Legal Cooperation (IRZ) on behalf of the Federal Government, an expert discussion about human rights was held on the premises of the International Society for Human Rights (IGFM) in Frankfurt, with an eight-member delegation of the Vietnamese Institute for Human Rights (VIMR), which was sent by their government. The VIMR is the most important human rights institution of the country.

The meeting is part of the German-Vietnamese collaboration in the field of human rights. On behalf of the Federal Government, the IRZ also organizes further appointments for the delegation, e.g. in Strasbourg at the European Court for Human Rights (EGMR).

At the expert discussion the German side was represented by: The Member of the Federal Parliament, Omid Nouripour, as speaker for foreign politics of the party

Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (Coalition 90/The Green) and member of the Foreign Committee in the German Bundestag, Prof. Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher, president of the International Council of the IGFM, and Martin Lessenthin, board spokesman of the IGFM. These three men specifically reported on the cooperation between parliament and NGOs, a subject the guests were highly interested in.

Unexpectedly there was very great interest in the religious freedom work achieved by the IGFM and by professor Schirmmacher. This resulted in an invitation to a visiting lecture in Hanoi and in the request to help with the development of a department for religious freedom within the VIMR.

The Vietnamese Institute for Human Rights is the country's largest academic institution for research and teaching in the field of state system, the political theory of human and fundamental rights and other related issues. Among its essential tasks are consulting the academy's president, conducting teaching events and courses on protecting human rights for party-members and government staff of all levels,



Prof. Dr. mult. Thomas Schirmmacher, president of the International Council of IGFM, MoP Omid Nouripour, spokesman for foreign affairs Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, and IGFM board spokesman Martin Lessenthin © IGFM

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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

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, German Branch Tübingen, EU-Office Brüssel)
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Linz, Zürich, Prague, Tirana, Istanbul, São Paulo, Delhi)
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missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
www.missiotop.org

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance
www.europeanea.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

UN Bonn liaison for inter-religious concerns of WEA

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

SOS World (Brussels)
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preparing surveys for the government, cooperating with international and regional academic research institutions for human rights issues and scientific research projects on the protection of human and fundamental rights, as well as publishing and distributing materials and reference books on the protection of human and fundamental rights. In 2014 the master's course



Group photo with Vietnamese guests © IGFM

“Human Rights” was established.

It's still a long way to rule of law in Vietnam – but there are first trends in a positive direction. In January 1st, 2014 a new constitution entered into force in Vietnam. These amendments at any rate resulted in an increased significance of the fundamental rights. First time ever there are endeavors to grapple with the citizen's protective rights towards the state. During the years 2015 to 2017 extensive amendments for the Vietnamese criminal procedure code have been worked out. When these actually become effective in the year 2018, as expected, this would mean one more positive step on the way to constitutional reforms.

Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** Prof. Dr. mult. Thomas Schirmacher, president of the International Council of IGFM, MoP Omid Nouripour, spokesman for foreign affairs Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, and IGFM board spokesman Martin Lessenthin © IGFM
- **Photo 2:** Group photo with Vietnamese guests © IGFM
- **Photo 3:** Expert discussion in progress © IGFM
- Report of the meeting (in German): <https://www.igfm.de/veranstaltungen/fachgesprach-vietnam/>

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