

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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BQ 619 – No. 01/2020

IIRF Co-Director comments on World Watch List on the situation of Christians

His result: “Very useful – if used properly”

(Bonn/Cape Town, 17.01.2020) The Co-Director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF), Prof. Dr. Christof Sauer, has updated his suggestions for an appropriate use of the World Watch List on the occasion of the release of the Index.

“The World Watch List of Open Doors and its underlying statistics are among the most quoted – and sometimes misquoted or misunderstood – instruments for measuring the discrimination or persecution of Christians and violations of religious freedom,” says the long-standing auditor of the index.

Sauer continues: “Overall, the World Watch List is a useful tool for understanding discrimination and persecution of Christians, on the condition that it is understood correctly and – within its limitations – used appropriately.”

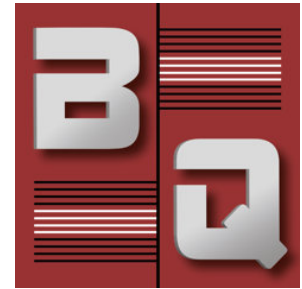
In 20 suggestions, it addresses common misunderstandings and errors in the use of the index. The recommendations are now in their third year of publication, each time using the current results of the index as an illustration.

From 2011–2013, Professor Sauer (as an independent expert) assisted World Watch Research, the research unit of Open Doors International, in the improvement of the data gathering methodology of the World Watch List. Since 2014, he coordinates the annual audit of the results of the World Watch List by the International Institute for Religious Freedom. In a previous commentary, he has described the usefulness of global surveys and country comparisons on persecution.

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

Business Coalition of the World Evangelical Alliance (Bonn, Hamburg)

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ. (VKW)
www.vkwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of the 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 (IIIS) of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

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

International Information Centre for Religious Freedom Germany e.V. (IIRF-D) (Tübingen)
www.iirf-d.de

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Linz, Zürich, Prague, Tirana, São Paulo, Helsinki, Istanbul, 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

WEA Sustainability Center
www.wea-sc.org

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

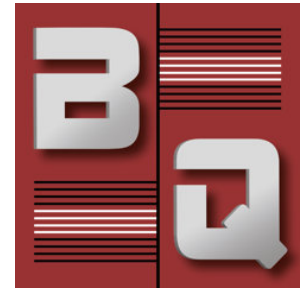
SOS World (Brussels)
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Prof. Dr. Christof Sauer listening to human rights defenders in Asia
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The 56-year-old also holds the professorship for Religious Freedom and Research on Persecution of Christians at Freie Theologische Hochschule Giessen (FTH) in Germany.



Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** Prof. Dr. Christof Sauer listening to human rights defenders in Asia © SEAFORB
- **Photo 2:** Prof. Dr. Christof Sauer © privat
- Download of the suggestions ([pdf](#))
- Download of the statement “Wozu weltweite Überblicke und Ländervergleiche über Verfolgung nützlich sind” ([pdf](#))
- Website of World Watch Research, Open Doors International with a section on the World Watch List: <http://www.opendoorsanalytical.org> (Password: Freedom)
- Example of the presentation of the WWL results for the public in an English speaking country: <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/world-watch-list/>
- Article by the Dutch Christian Daily “Reformatorsch Dagblad”: <https://www.rd.nl/kerk-religie/christenvervolgung/hoogleraar-staar-je-niet-blind-op-positie-land-ranglijst-1.1624425>
- Website of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF): <https://www.iirf.eu>
- Website of the Professorship for Religious Freedom and Research on Christian Persecution: <http://www.religionsfreiheit.global>

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