

# Bonner Querschnitte

## Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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### BQ 809 – No. 32/2024

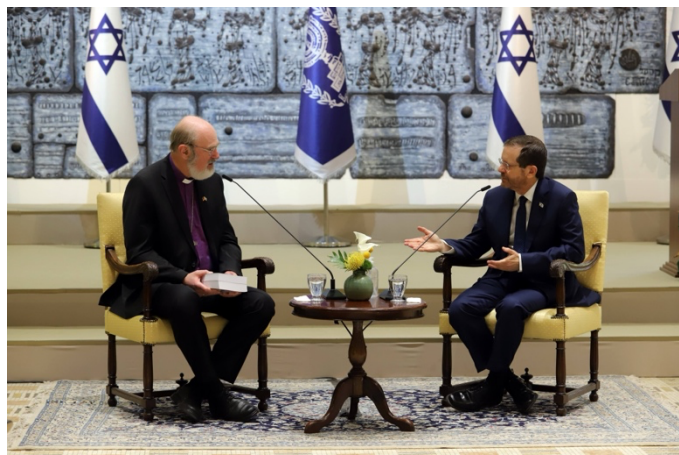
## October 7: Israel has every right to defend its existence when it is attacked by rockets from the territory of at least three states

### A commentary by Thomas Paul Schirmmacher

(Bonn, 07.10.2024) My denomination, the Continuing Evangelical Episcopal Communion (CEEC.church), has signed the definition of antisemitism of IHRA, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, as have other churches, like the Church of England or the Pentecostal World Fellowship. The definition has been particularly criticized because of the additional statement “Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.”

The current global situation proves wrong all those who have denied a possible link between anti-Semitic criticism of Israel and anti-Semitism itself. Most violent protesters around the world make no distinction between the two. They criticize Israel as a Jewish state, and their hatred of Jews spills over into hatred of the only country with a Jewish majority. The growing actual violence against Jews, as well as the call for violence against them, hardly distinguishes between Israel and the Jews. The slogan “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” denies both a Jewish state in the Holy Land and the presence of Jews in the Holy Land. The slogan can only be fulfilled by killing Jews or forcibly expelling them.

When Iran fired 180 missiles at Israel a few days ago, which would have killed at least tens of thousands of civilians, if they had reached the ground and exploded, pro-Palestinian protesters around the world erupted in jubilation. This proves that they are not

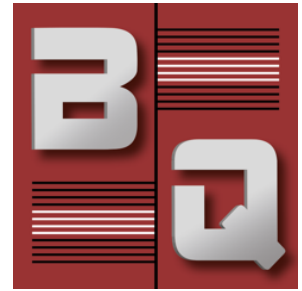


Thomas Paul Schirmmacher in conversation with the President of Israel, Jitzchak Herzog © BQ/Martin Warnecke

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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](http://business.worlddea.org)

Evangelical Missiology, Journal of missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance) [missiotop.org](http://missiotop.org)

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

Giving Hands – International Charity (Bonn) [gebende-haende.de](http://gebende-haende.de)

Institut für Islamfragen der Deutschen, Schweizer und Österreichischen Allianz (IfI) [islaminstitut.de](http://islaminstitut.de)

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) (Bonn) [islaminstutute.net](http://islaminstutute.net)

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) (Bonn, Vancouver, San José – Costa Rica) [iirf.global](http://iirf.global)

International Journal for Religious Freedom (IJRF) (Bonn/Toronto) [ijrf.org](http://ijrf.org)

International Secretariat of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) [ishr.org](http://ishr.org)

Islam and Christianity [journal.islaminstutute.net](http://journal.islaminstutute.net)

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Zürich, Tirana, São Paulo, Helsinki, Istanbul, Delhi) [bucer.org](http://bucer.org)

SOS World (Brussels) [sosworld.be/page-daccueil](http://sosworld.be/page-daccueil)

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance [europeanea.org](http://europeanea.org)

Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft (VKW) (Culture and Science Publ.) [vkwonline.com](http://vkwonline.com)

WEA book series: Global Issues Series / World of Theology Series [theology.worlddea.org/global-issues](http://theology.worlddea.org/global-issues)  
[theology.worlddea.org/world-of-theology](http://theology.worlddea.org/world-of-theology)

WEA Sustainability Center [wea-sc.org](http://wea-sc.org)

Yearbook on Religious Freedom of the Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance [yearbooks.iirf.eu](http://yearbooks.iirf.eu)

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fighting for human rights or the right to self-determination of peoples, but simply want Israel and the Jews to be destroyed and killed.

We also have ample proof now that this is not just a war or civil war within the Holy Land, but a war against the existence of Israel and the Jews by countries that are not even neighbors of Israel, while some Arab neighbors remain neutral (like Egypt) or even help to destroy the Iranian missiles (like Jordan).

**In this situation, the State of Israel has the right to self-defense, like any other state, which has been under rocket attack from the national territory of at least three states for years, and has been continuously under attack since 7 October 2024.**

Just one more thought as a Christian leader. On August 23 2024, a Syrian follower of ISIS seeking asylum in Germany killed three people and injured eight in the city of Solingen. ISIS said they killed Christians in revenge for Israel's attack on Gaza. Since the Muslim Brotherhood and its Palestinian branch, Hamas, have a 100-year history of attacking churches, starting with the arson of a church in Egypt in 1924, this must be taken seriously. At the moment, all the heat is on the Jews. But in their hatred, the extremists will target Christians next.

So let us stand together against all forms of religious and ideological extremism and terrorism.

**Archbishop Thomas Paul Schirmmacher,  
Dr. theol. Dr. phil., PhD, DD, ThD, HLD**

*Global Ambassador and Director of the Office of Government  
& International Affairs of the CEEC.church*

*President of the International Council of the International Society  
for Human Rights*

*President of the International Institute for Religious Freedom*



### Downloads and Links:

- **Photo:** Thomas Paul Schirmmacher in conversation with the President of Israel, Jitzchak Herzog © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance: Working definition of antisemitism: <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>

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