

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 835 – No. 15/2025

ISHR Leadership Visits Apostolic Nuncio in Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania

(Bonn, 15.02.2025) After visiting the Government and Parliament of Cape Verde, including a meeting with Cardinal Arlindo Gomes Furtado, Bishop of Santiago de Cabo Verde, and en route to Mauritania, the leadership of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) visited the Apostolic Nuncio for Senegal, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania in Dakar, the capital of Senegal.

The Apostolic Nunciature in Senegal is the diplomatic mission of the Holy See in Senegal, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. The Apostolic Nuncio to Senegal is an ecclesiastical office of the Catholic Church in Senegal with the rank of ambassador. The nuncio serves both as the Holy See's ambassador to these countries and as the point of contact between the Catholic hierarchy in these countries and the Pope.

Nuncio Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag (born 1968) is a Polish prelate of the Catholic Church who works in the diplomatic service of the Holy See. He was appointed as archbishop in 2018 and served as nuncio to Nicaragua from 2018 to 2022.

Archbishop Thomas Schirmmayer and Matthias Boehning discussed their experiences in Cabo Verde and their plans for Mauritania with the Nuncio. Another important topic was the situation in Nicaragua.

Sommertag's tenure in Nicaragua was marked by efforts to defuse tensions between the government and the political opposition, although the government, like the Catholic Church leadership in general, increasingly saw him as an ally of its critics. For three years he quietly assisted in negotiations between the government and the families of its

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:
Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, 25479 Ellerau
Tel.: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07
E-Mail: 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 (German Evangelical Alliance) 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) islaminstutute.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.islaminstutute.net

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

SOS World (Brussels) sosworld.be/page-daccueil

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

WEA Sustainability Center wea-sc.org

Yearbook on Religious Freedom of the Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance iirf.global/jahrbuch



Matthias Boehning and Thomas Schirmmayer in discussion with Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag © Martin Wamecke

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



imprisoned critics, winning the release of some, but then began to use the term “political prisoners”. On November 18, 2021, the Nicaraguan government decreed the abolition of the title “Dean of the Diplomatic Corps”, traditionally given to the representative of the Holy See in Catholic countries. On March 6, 2022, he left Nicaragua after the government withdrew its recognition of his diplomatic status and ordered him to leave the country. The move came amid growing conflict between the Church and the dictatorship of President Daniel Ortega. On September 6, 2022, Pope Francis appointed him Apostolic Nuncio to Senegal, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. In a statement, the Vatican praised the work Sommertag had done in Nicaragua mediating the freeing of many of these political leaders. Sommertag “worked tirelessly for the good of the church and the Nicaraguan people, especially for the most vulnerable, always seeking to favor good relations between the Apostolic See and the Authorities of Nicaragua. His participation as a witness and accompanier of the National Dialogue Table between the Government and the political opposition, in view of national reconciliation and the release of political prisoners, deserves particular mention.”



Archbishop Sommertag presents Matthias Boehning and Thomas Schirmmacher his Bishops cross © Martin Warnecke

Another topic was the experience of interreligious dialogue in Senegal, as in mid-2024 the Catholic Church helped launch the Interreligious Council for Peace of Senegal. Bringing together representatives of Islam, the Catholic Church, Protestant churches and traditional religions, the Council's mission is to anticipate and defuse conflicts and to promote peace, social cohesion, reconciliation and development in Senegal and in West Africa as a whole. As a result, on February 1, 2025, Sommertag and 20 Catholic prelates participated for the first time as guests of honor in major Muslim activities in Senegal.

Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** Matthias Boehning and Thomas Schirmmacher in discussion with Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 2:** Archbishop Sommertag shows Matthias Boehning and Thomas Schirmmacher his Bishops cross © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 3:** The Catholic Church in Dakar © Martin Warnecke

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, 25479 Ellerau
Tel.: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07
E-Mail: 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 missiopotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance) missiopotop.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) islam institute.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.islam institute.net

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

SOS World (Brussels) sosworld.be/page-daccueil

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

WEA Sustainability Center wea-sc.org

Yearbook on Religious Freedom of the Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance yearbooks.iirf.eu

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



- **Photo 4:** The Nuntiatur in Dakar, Senegal © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 5:** The Mosque in Dakar Senegal © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 6:** The Supreme Court of Senegal in Dakar © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 7:** The Parliament of Sengal in Dakar © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 8 and photo 9:** Africa Momument in Dakar, Senegal © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 10:** The 16th century Portuguese fortress of São Filipe is situated on a plateau above the town centre of Cidade Velha © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 11:** Eurídice Mascarenhas, president of the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship of Cabo Verde (CNDHC), gives Schirmmacher and Böhning an overview of the development of the human rights situation in the island country welcoming the initiative for further cooperation © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 12:** The President of Cabo Verde José Maria Neves receiving a Delegation led by Thomas Schirmmacher and Matthias Boehning on January 14, 2025. The guests express their respect and admiration for the democratic development of Capo Verde towards the head of state © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 13:** The Presidential Palace in the historic center of Praia © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 14:** Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva Prime Minister explains the basic pillars of his government program to Schirmmacher and Boehning, while underlining Cabo Verde's role model function for other African states (January 14, 2025) © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 15:** Dona Maria Pia Lighthouse is located at the southernmost point of the Island of Santiago, near the entrance of Praia Harbour © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 16:** Archbishop Waldemar Stanisław Sommertag, since September 2022 serving as the Apostolic Nuncio to Senegal, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania, is welcoming Thomas Schirmmacher and Matthias Boehning at his residence in Dakar, Senegal (January 15, 2025) © Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 17:** Sommertag presents to Schirmmacher and Boehning an insightful report on the coexistence of the various religious communities in Western Africa as well as on the current trends in religious freedom in the region © Martin Warnecke
- Quotes about the Nuncio: <https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2022/03/vatican-calls-expulsion-of-envoy-in-nicaragua-incomprehensible>
- About Archbishop Waldemar Stanisław Sommertag: <https://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/bsomm.html>
- Wikipedia entry on Archbishop Waldemar Stanisław Sommertag: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waldemar_Stanis%C5%82aw_Sommertag

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 missiopotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance) missiopotop.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 (iff) 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 (Bonn, Zürich, Tirana, São Paulo, Helsinki, Istanbul, Delhi) bucer.org

SOS World (Brussels) sosworld.be/page-daccueil

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

WEA Sustainability Center wea-sc.org

Yearbook on Religious Freedom of the Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance yearbooks.iirf.eu

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, 25479 Ellerau
Tel.: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07
E-Mail: info@bonn-profiles.net

