

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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BQ 838 – No. 18/2025

Schirmmacher and Böhning are grateful for the conversations in Cape Verde

In Cape Verde, ISHR leaders meet with President, Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament, and other top leaders

(Bonn, 28.02.2025) The President of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR), Thomas Paul Schirmmacher, and the ISHR Secretary General, Matthias K. Böhning, expressed their gratitude for the many opportunities for discussion in Cape Verde.

During their visit, the two human rights activists were able to see for themselves the positive development of the country and noted with pride that Cape Verde has developed into a strong parliamentary democracy.

Schirmmacher and Böhning also found the many discussions with politicians and dignitaries from Cape Verde a privilege. Among the interlocutors were President José Maria Neves and First Lady Débora Katísá, Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva, the Speaker of Parliament Austelino Tavares Correia and the President of the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship of Cape Verde (CNDHC), Eurídice Mascarenhas, Bishop Cardinal Arlindo Gomes Furtado and Archbishop Waldemar Stanisław Sommertag. The following picture gallery gives an insight into the trip and the meetings.



The Colors of the Republic of Cabo Verde flying over the Bay of Praia © BQ/Martin Warnecke



The National Assembly in the capital Praia © BQ/Martin Warnecke



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Thomas Schirmacher walking along the Formation of Honor in front of the National Assembly on January 13, 2025 © BQ/Martin Warnecke



The First Lady of Cabo Verde Débora Katisa Carvalho welcoming Thomas Schirmacher at the Event © BQ/Martin Warnecke



Schirmacher and Böhning meeting Jorge Carlos Fonseca, who served as the President of Cabo Verde from 2011 to 2021, and his wife, former First Lady Lúcia Fonseca, for a cordial exchange during the festivities in the National Assembly © BQ/Martin Warnecke



Eurídice Mascarenhas, president of the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship of Cabo Verde (CNDHC), gives Schirmacher and Böhning an overview of the development of the human rights situation in the island country welcoming the initiative for further cooperation © BQ/Martin Warnecke



Schirmacher in interdenominational exchange with Cardinal Arlindo Gomes Furtado, Bishop of Santiago de Cabo Verde since 2009 © BQ/Martin Warnecke



Correia and Schirmacher exchanging ideas with a view to future cooperation © BQ/Martin Warnecke

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Austelino Tavares Correia, President of the National Assembly of Cabo Verde, meeting Thomas Schirmacher, Matthias Böhning and Esther Schirmacher for Strategic Talks on January 14, 2025
© BQ/Martin Warnecke



Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva Prime Minister explains the basic pillars of his government program to Schirmacher and Böhning, while underlining Cabo Verde's role model function for other African states (January 14, 2025) © BQ/Martin Warnecke

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The 16th century Portuguese fortress of São Filipe is situated on a plateau above the town centre of Cidade Velha © BQ/Martin Warnecke



Dona Maria Pia Lighthouse is located at the southernmost point of the Island of Santiago, near the entrance of Praia Harbour © BQ/Martin Warnecke



The Presidential Palace in the historic centre of Praia © BQ/Martin Warnecke

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Archbishop Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag, since September 2022 serving as the Apostolic Nuncio to Senegal, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania, is welcoming Thomas Schirmacher and Matthias Böhning at his residence in Dakar, Senegal (January 15, 2025) © BQ/Martin Warnecke



Sommertag presents to Schirmacher and Böhning 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 © BQ/Martin Warnecke

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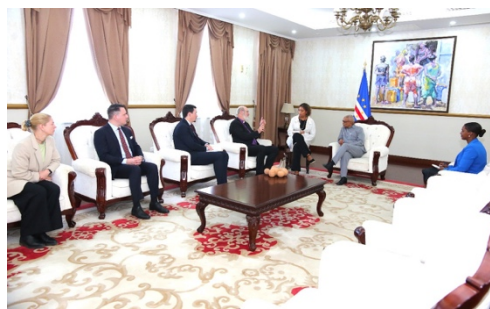
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Solemn Commemorative Session of the National Assembly to mark the Day of Freedom and Democracy on the 13th of January – the date on which, in 1991, Cape Verdeans exercised their right to vote in the first multi-party elections, after 15 years under one-party rule. The event was attended by National Deputies, Members of the Government and Representatives of the Corps Diplomatique, International Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and Religious Confessions © BQ/Martin Warnecke



The President of Cabo Verde José Maria Neves receiving a Delegation led by Thomas Schirmacher and Matthias Böhning on January 14, 2025. The guests express their respect and admiration for the democratic development of Cabo Verde towards the head of state © BQ/Martin Warnecke

Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** The Colors of the Republic of Cabo Verde flying over the Bay of Praia © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 2:** The National Assembly in the capital Praia © BQ/Martin Warnecke

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- **Photo 5:** The First Lady of Cabo Verde Débora Katísa Carvalho welcoming Thomas Schirmmacher at the Event © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 6:** Schirmmacher in interdenominational exchange with Cardinal Arlindo Gomes Furtado, Bishop of Santiago de Cabo Verde since 2009 © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 7:** Schirmmacher and Böhning meeting Jorge Carlos Fonseca, who served as the President of Cabo Verde from 2011 to 2021, and his wife, former First Lady Lígia Fonseca, for a cordial exchange during the festivities in the National Assembly © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 8:** 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 © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 9:** Austelino Tavares Correia, President of the National Assembly of Cabo Verde, meeting Thomas Schirmmacher, Matthias Böhning and Esther Schirmmacher for Strategic Talks on January 14, 2025 © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 10:** Correia and Schirmmacher exchanging ideas with a view to future cooperation © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 11:** The 16th century Portuguese fortress of São Filipe is situated on a plateau above the town centre of Cidade Velha © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 12:** The President of Cabo Verde José Maria Neves receiving a Delegation led by Thomas Schirmmacher and Matthias Böhning on January 14, 2025. The guests express their respect and admiration for the democratic development of Cabo Verde towards the head of state © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 13:** The Presidential Palace in the historic centre of Praia © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- **Photo 14:** Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva Prime Minister explains the basic pillars of his government program to Schirmmacher and Böhning, while underlining Cabo Verde's role model function for other African states (January 14, 2025) © BQ/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 © BQ/Martin Warnecke

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- **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 Böhning at his residence in Dakar, Senegal (January 15, 2025) © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- 1. **Photo 17:** Sommertag presents to Schirmmacher and Böhning 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 © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- BQ 834 “ISHR leader praises Cape Verde as model of Democracy and Human Rights”: <https://bonn-profiles.net/?p=8238>
- 2. BQ 835 “ISHR Leadership Visits Apostolic Nuncio in Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania”: <https://bonn-profiles.net/?p=8268>

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