

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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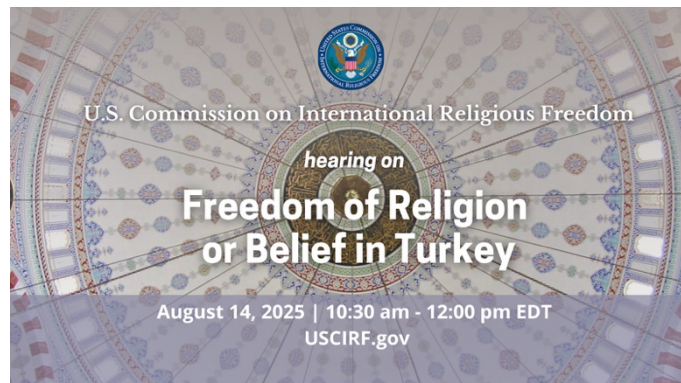
BQ 863 – No. 43/2025

IIRF-President Schirmacher to testify in USCIRF hearing on Turkey August 14

(Bonn, 04.08.2025) The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing announced a virtual Hearing on “Freedom of Religion or Belief in Turkey” on August 14, 2025, at 10:30 AM.

The official announcement

USCIRF’s visit to Turkey in September 2024 and subsequent reporting have confirmed that the Turkish government continues to restrict religious freedom through a variety of means, including administrative, educational, and judicial. This hearing will assess these areas of FoRB restrictions and how they impact Turkey’s many religious communities: Alevis, Protestant Christians, Orthodox and Apostolic Christians, Jews, Sunni Muslims, secularists, and others. It will also consider how the United States can leverage bilateral and multilateral mechanisms to support FoRB for all who call Turkey home. In its 2025 Annual Report, USCIRF recommended that the U.S. Department of State designate Turkey for the U.S. Department of State’s Special Watch List, or SWL, for engaging in systematic and ongoing violations of religious freedom, as defined by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA).



Witnesses will discuss potential next steps to advance freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) in Turkey and to improve conditions for members of the country’s religious minority and majority communities alike. Beside the Opening Remarks by Vicky Hartzler, Chair of USCIRF and Asif Mahmood, Vice Chair of USCIRF, the panel of witnesses will include:

- Ramazan Arkan, Chair of the Association of Protestant Churches in Turkey (Protestan Kiliseler Derneği) and Senior Pastor of the Antalya Evangelical Churches

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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

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 (IIIS) (Bonn) islamistitute.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.islamistitute.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

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- Haydar Baki Dogan, President, Alevi Foundations Federation
- Soner Cagaptay, Beyer Family Senior Fellow and Director of the Turkish Research Program, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy
- Thomas Paul Schirmmacher, President, International Institute for Religious Freedom and the International Council of the International Society for Human Rights

Registration:

https://zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_C33aSOYeQEiC3CJ8a-l8lw#/

Downloads and Links:

- **Photo:** Thomas Schirmmacher with the Head of Turkey's Diyanet Ali Erbaş in Baku 2018 © BQ/Martin Warnecke
- USCIRF "Freedom of Religion or Belief in Turkey" header: <https://bonner-querschnitte.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/BQ0863.png>
- USCIRF "Freedom of Religion or Belief in Turkey": <https://uscirf.gov/events/hearings/freedom-religion-or-belief-turkey>



Thomas Schirmmacher with the Head of Turkey's Diyanet Ali Erbaş in Baku 2018 © BQ/Martin Warnecke

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theology.worlddea.org/world-of-theology

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

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