

# Bonner Querschnitte

*Bonn Profiles – Press Reports*

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## **BQ 232 – No. 38/2012**

### **World Evangelical Alliance congratulates World Council of Churches on Pakistan hearing**



The representatives of the Vatican (right) and WEA (left) addressing the delegates (Photo © IIRF)

consequences of a law that is inherently susceptible to abuse,” the group said in a communiqué released this afternoon. The communiqué was issued at the end of a three-day public hearing on “Misuse of blasphemy law and religious minorities in Pakistan” organized by the WCC’s Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) in Geneva, Switzerland.

In his statement to the audience, the head of the delegation of World Evangelical alliance, Thomas Schirmmacher, thanked the World Council of Churches, and especially its General Secretary, Olav Fykse Tveit, and its Director of International Affairs, Dr Matthews George, for organising the event and for making the situation of Christians and other minorities in Pakistan a central public topic for many years already.

Schirmmacher stated, that even though the fate of Christians, Ahmadiyahs or Hindus comes to the attention of the global audience and media, actually the blasphemy cases in Pakistan and the discrimination of minorities actually has many Muslim victims. Thus WCC and WEA are not only fighting for their member churches only, or for religious minorities only, but for every human in Pakistan.

(Bonn, 10.12.2012) The participants of a World Council of Churches (WCC) sponsored hearing on the misuse of Pakistan’s blasphemy laws have urged the Pakistani government to “take realistic and solid steps to stop abuse of the blasphemy law that are causing massive human rights violations.” “Tinkering with procedural amendments has not delivered; it has failed to mitigate extremely sad



Asiya Nasir, MP of Pakistan, Thomas Schirmmacher and Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the WCC (Photo © IIRF)



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

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance  
[www.ead.de/akref](http://www.ead.de/akref)

Culture and Science Publ.  
[www.vkwonline.de](http://www.vkwonline.de)

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

Help Worldwide – International Charity  
[www.hilfe-weltweit.org](http://www.hilfe-weltweit.org)

Institute for Emergency Counselling, Terminal Care and Grief Counselling  
[www.bucer.de/ist](http://www.bucer.de/ist)

Institute for Pro-life and Family Studies  
[www.bucer.de/ifw](http://www.bucer.de/ifw)

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[www.islaminstitute.net](http://www.islaminstitute.net)

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[www.iirf.eu](http://www.iirf.eu)

Martin Bucer Seminary  
[www.bucer.de](http://www.bucer.de)

Pro Mundis e. V.  
[www.thomasschirmmacher.net](http://www.thomasschirmmacher.net)

Theological Commission of “Hope for Europe” (European Evangelical Alliance)  
[www.hfe.org](http://www.hfe.org)

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/tc/](http://www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/tc/)

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After an additional side event on Pakistan at the UN-Human-Rights-Council organised by WCC, Schirmmacher also thanked the present Muslim leaders from Pakistan for their clear words.

The WEA backed the WCC hearing by a high ranking delegation, made up out of Schirmmacher, Godfrey Yogarajah from Sri Lanka, director of the Religious Liberty Commission (RLC), Christof Sauer from South Africa, co-director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF), Michael Mutzner, WEA's standing representative to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, and Arie de Peter, RLC's and IIRF's representative to the UN, and other experts.



Pakistan hearing at the UN-Human-Rights-Council 2012 (Photo © IIRF)

### Downloads:

- <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1634/wcc-urges-pakistani-gover.html>
- Communique: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/international-affairs/commission-on-international-affairs-policy/communique-on-misuse-of-blasphemy-law-in-pakistan.html>
- [Photo 1](#): The representatives of the Vatican (right) and WEA (left) addressing the delegates
- [Photo 2](#): Asiya Nasir, MP of Pakistan, Thomas Schirmmacher and Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the WCC
- [Photo 3](#): Pakistan hearing at the UN-Human-Rights-Council 2012

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