

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Phone: +49 / 4106 / 804806; Fax: +49 / 4106 / 804807

E-Mail: bq@bucer.de; <http://www.bucer.org/bq.html>

Released for free complete or partial reproduction

BQ 243 – No. 07/2013

The Patriarch of the Syriac Orthodox Church Thanks the World Evangelical Alliance

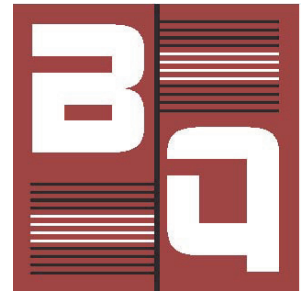
The Patriarch of the Syriac Orthodox Church, Ignatius Zakka I., along with several bishops and archbishops of his church, has publicly thanked the Ambassador for Human Rights of the World Evangelical Alliance for the work of the WEA on behalf of Christians facing discrimination worldwide, and especially for the efforts of the WEA on behalf of Syrian Orthodox Christians. At the same time, the Patriarch invited him to visit the Middle East. Thomas Schirmmacher presented the Patriarch with a copy of the new, wide-ranging book published for the WEA on the theme of Christian persecution which was written by 45 experts from around the world. (*Sorrow & Blood: Christian Mission in Contexts of Suffering, Persecution, and Martyrdom*, edited by William Taylor, Antonia van der Meer, and Reg Reimer. William Carey Library, 2012.)

In his remarks Schirmmacher pointed out that the Syriac Orthodox Church has a history of experiencing persecution that did not begin with the recent civil war. The fact that 300,000 Syrian Orthodox Christians and their descendants live in Europe today is a result of the persecution which, beginning in the late nineteenth century, reached its high point about a century ago, at which time many thousands were chased out of Turkey. He lamented that the fate of the church in Syria, which is being wiped out between the opposing military fronts, has hardly come to the attention of the world media and political leaders. Schirmmacher also held several individual discussions with both Syrian Orthodox and Coptic bishops from various Muslim majority countries who reported on the discrimination and persecution of Christians in their various countries.

Ignatius Zakka I. Iwas, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East and Supreme Head of the Universal Syriac Orthodox Church, was born in 1933 and elected to become the 122nd patriarch of his church in 1980. The church traces its roots to the first century and has concentrations of churches today in the Middle East, India, Sweden, Germany, and Canada. It is part of the group of ancient churches which are usually



(from left) body guard, Patriarch Igantius Zakka I., Bishop Damian, Schirmmacher



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

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwoonline.de

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

Help Worldwide – International Charity
www.hilfe-weltweit.org

Institute for Emergency Counselling, Terminal Care and Grief Counselling
www.bucer.de/ist

Institute for Prolife and Family Studies
www.bucer.de/lfw

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary
www.bucer.de

Pro Mundis e. V.
www.thomasschirmmacher.net

Theological Commission of "Hope for Europe" (European Evangelical Alliance)
www.hfe.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/tc/

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)

Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau

Phone: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06

Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07

E-Mail: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



called “Oriental Orthodox” to distinguish them from the “Eastern Orthodox” churches. The Oriental Orthodox Communion includes six separate churches which remain distinct while cooperating. They are the Coptic Orthodox, the Ethiopian Orthodox, the Eritrean Orthodox, the Syrian Orthodox, the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (in India), and the Armenian Apostolic Church. The Syriac Orthodox Church also calls itself the “Syriac” Orthodox Church, to emphasize that it is not necessarily associated only with the modern country of Syria.

The Patriarch was visiting Germany for the fifth time. The occasion for his recent visit to the Cloister of St. Jacob of Sarug, in Warburg, was the installation of the new Metropolitan and Patriarchal Vicar of Germany, Bishop Philoxinos Mathias Nayis. Bishop Nayis, age 35, was born in Sweden and served until recently as the personal secretary of the Patriarch in Damascus. His new duties focus on the spiritual care of their congregations in Germany. Archbishop Patriarchal Vicar Dr. Julius Hanna Aydin, who was Metropolitan of Germany since 2007, has taken responsibility for ecumenical and political relations on behalf of his church.

Downloads:

- [Photo1](#): Patriarch Igantius Zakka I. (left) with two archbishops
- [Photo2](#): (from left) body guard, Patriarch Igantius Zakka I., Bishop Damian, Schirmmacher
- [Photo3](#): Patriarch Igantius Zakka I. wearing official vestments

Released for free complete or partial reproduction

DOWNLOADS OF GRAPHICS AND OF COMMUNICATION

<http://www.bucer.org/bq.html>

SUBSCRIBING OR UNSUBSCRIBING BONN PROFILES

If you want to begin receiving or no longer wish to receive the Bonn Profiles, please send us an e-mail.

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07
E-Mail: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de

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

Culture and Science Publ.

www.vkwonline.de

Giving Hands – International Charity

www.gebende-haende.de

Help Worldwide – International Charity

www.hilfe-weltweit.org

Institute for Emergency Counselling, Terminal Care and Grief Counselling

www.bucer.de/ist

Institute for Prolife and Family Studies

www.bucer.de/lfw

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance

www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance

www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary

www.bucer.de

Pro Mundis e. V.

www.thomasschirmmacher.net

Theological Commission of “Hope for Europe” (European Evangelical Alliance)

www.hfe.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance

www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/tc/