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Three Yearbooks for two Popes and one Patriarch

Yearbooks addressing the Persecution of Christians and Freedom of Religion presented to Pope Francis, Pope Benedict, and Patriarch Bartholomew.

(Bonn, 17.11.2014) Just in time for the 2014 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, the Director of the Working Group for Religious Freedom, Thomas Schirrmacher, presented the 2014 Religious Freedom Yearbook (Jahrbuch

Religionsfreiheit 2014) and the 2014 Yearbook on the Persecution and Discrimination of Christians (Jahrbuch Verfolgung und Diskriminierung von Christen 2014) to Pope Francis. This occurred as part of a visit by a delegation of the World Evangelical Alliance to Pope Francis. Pope Francis, who can read German, has now received the yearbooks a second time. He was also presented yearbooks in 2013. Pope Benedict has received the books for years and asked to continue to receive the books after his resignation. The copies were presented to Pope Benedict's private secretary, Archbishop Georg Gänswein, who also attended.

A few days later, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was presented both of the volumes in Istanbul upon the occasion of the visit of a WEA delegation under the direction of the outgoing WEA General Secretary. For years, Schirrmacher has been personally presenting the yearbook to the Patriarch.

The yearbooks are published by the International Society for Human Rights together with the three German speaking Evangelical Alliances of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.



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. <u>www.vkwonline.com</u>

Giving Hands – International Charity <u>www.gebende-haende.de</u>

Help Worldwide – International Charity <u>www.hilfe-weltweit.de</u>

Institute for Prolife and Family Studies <u>www.bucer.de/ilfw</u>

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

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance <u>www.iirf.eu</u>

Martin Bucer Seminary www.bucer.org

Pro Mundis e. V. www.thomasschirrmacher.net

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

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

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Bartholomäus I., Geoff Tunnicliffe, John

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• <u>Photo</u>: (from left) Thomas Schirrmacher, Bartholomäus I., Geoff Tunnicliffe, John Baxter-Brown (Theological Commission of the WEA)

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