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Phone: +49 / 4106 / 804806; Fax: +49 / 4106 / 804807 E-Mail: bg@bucer.de; http://www.bucer.org/bg.html

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His Holiness gave a talk in a discussion panel on "Protecting Freedom of Belief and Christian Minorities in Zones of Conflict"

PRESS RELEASE BY THE SYRIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

(Bonn, 25.07.2017) His Holiness Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II was invited to give a talk in a discussion panel on "Protecting Freedom of Belief and Christian Minorities in Zones of Conflict".

Panelists included Prof. Thomas Schirrmacher, Director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom and President of the International Council of the International

Society for Human Rights Commissioner for Religious Freedom and Persecuted Christians (Germany) and Mr. Knox Thames, Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South/ Central Asia in the United States Department of State. The remarks at the panel were delivered by Dr. Philipp Hildmann, Commissioner for Intercultural Dialogue in the Hanns-Seidel Foundation.

His Holiness spoke about the persecution of Christians in their homeland as well as the



His Holiness Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II during his talk in the discussion panel © BQ / Warnecke

consequences of these persecutions, resulting in migration of a large percentage of the Christian population from Iraq and Syria. He also suggested that the solution is to help Christians remain in their homeland and provide security and stability for them as well as equal citizenship in their countries.

His Eminence Mor Dionysius John Kawak, Patriarchal Vicar for the Archdiocese of the Eastern USA, and Very Rev. Raban Joseph Bali, Patriarchal Secretary and Media Office Director, accompanied His Holiness to the discussion panel.



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.com

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

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

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

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.org

Pro Mundis e. V. www.thomasschirrmacher.net

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

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

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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

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Downloads and Links:

- <u>Photo</u>: His Holiness Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II during his talk in the discussion panel © BQ / Warnecke
- Invitation to the discussion panel (pdf)
- The original press release by the Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate: http://syrianorthodoxchurch.org/2017/05/his-holiness-gave-a-talk-in-a-discussion-panel-on-protecting-freedom-of-belief-and-christian-minorities-in-zones-of-conflict/

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