

Bonner Querschnitte

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Thomas Schirmmacher thanks the Grand Mufti of Lahore

Grand Mufti and Bishop jointly contest the Blasphemy Law

(Bonn, 29.08.2017) The Associate Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), Thomas Schirmmacher, and the WEA's specialist in questions relating to Islam, Christine Schirmmacher, have visited the Grand Mufti of Lahore, Maulana Abdul Khair Azad. There

are up to 100,000 people who pray on Fridays in the Badschahi Mosque under his purview. The Badschahi Mosque was constructed in the period 1671-1673. It is the largest mosque in Pakistan, the second largest in southern Asia, and the fifth largest in the world.

Schirmmacher thanked the Grand Mufti for having several times stood in the way of Muslim mobs seeking to set Christians' homes on fire and for having frequently

demonstrated his solidarity after attacks on Christians. He has done so by seeking out the locations where these crimes occurred and condemning Islamic extremism.

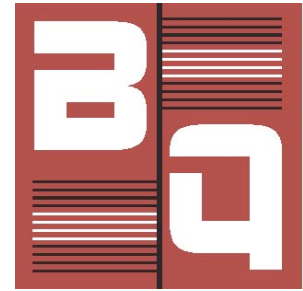
Topics addressed during the approximate four hour visit were, in addition to the significant differences between Islam and Christianity, the situation facing religious minorities in Pakistan, Pakistan's blasphemy law, and slavery in brick production.

Grand Mufti Azad and Bishop Schirmmacher were in agreement that extremists in Pakistan have come to view criticism of the blasphemy law as itself blasphemy. Ministers, governors, high level judges have for that reason been killed or threatened. The Grand Mufti reported that he is permanently endangered and lives under massive police protection.

In addition to the meeting with the Grand Mufti, Christine and Thomas Schirmmacher met with the Arch Bishop of the United Church of Pakistan (Anglican & Lutheran), further leaders of Protestant churches and the chairman of the Evangelical Alliance in



Grand Mufti Azad and Bischof Schirmmacher in conversation © BQ / Warnecke



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Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwoonline.com

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

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

Institute for Pro-life 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.thomasschirmmacher.net

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

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

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Pakistan. Furthermore, they held guest lectures, interviewed slaves in a brick factory, and held a seminar on human rights together with the Pakistani lawyers' association "The Voice."

"Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad is the Grand Mufti of the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore, Pakistan. He is the Chairman of the National Peace Council for Interfaith Harmony in Pakistan, the Chairman of Pakistan's Tanzeem Aiema Masajid Council and the Majlas-e-Ulama Council. For 20 years he has been active in interreligious dialogue. As a passionate supporter of harmony and peace between religions and cultures, in particular between Christians and Muslims, he is an advocate for dialogue in Pakistan as well as internationally" (www.forum-weltkirche.de).

Downloads and Links:

- Photos:
 - [Photo 1](#): While leaving the Mosque © BQ / Warnecke
 - [Photo 2](#) and [Photo 3](#): Grand Mufti Azad and Bischof Schirmmacher in conversation © BQ / Warnecke
 - [Photo 4](#): Christine Schirmmacher during her lecture in front of Pakistani advocates © BQ / Warnecke
 - [Photo 5](#): The Badschahi Mosque © BQ / Warnecke
- The Imam of Lahore: "Christians and Muslims together for dialogue and respect between believers, peace": <http://www.news.va/en/news/asiapakistan-the-imam-of-lahore-christians-and-mus>
- "A Grand Imam and a Dominican Unite Against Christian Persecution in Pakistan": <http://www.op.org/en/content/grand-imam-and-dominican-unite-against-christian-persecution-pakistan>
- General Cox hosted Pakistan's Grand Imam Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad at The Salvation Army's International Headquarters in London on 11 June 2015: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/salvationarmyhq/sets/72157652075308234/>
- Interview with the Grand Imam in German: <http://www.forum-weltkirche.de/artikel/18694.ich-bin-entschlossen-die-mission-gottes-fortzufuehren.html>
- German announcement: <http://www.heilsarmee.de/aktuelles/general-empfaengt-grossimam.html>

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