

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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International Institute for Religious Freedom audits World Watch List

(Bonn/Kapstadt, 01.03.2019) For the sixth time the World Watch List of Open Doors has been audited positively by a team of five scholars of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF). IIRF chose four countries and tracked the whole procedure, from the experts who answered the questionnaires, the editing process of the World Watch List Unit, through to the final scoring. Three scholars checked individual countries on which they themselves are experts, while others also checked the whole process.

As a result, IIRF submitted a list of proposals to improve depth of information on newly assessed countries and consistency from country to country. As in the previous four years, IIRF did not see a need to improve the questionnaire as such. "The questionnaire has been improved again and again and further changes are not a priority, rather the emphasis needs to be on guaranteeing the quality of the responses to the questionnaire particularly in countries newly under close scrutiny."

This is the audit statement:

"The results of the Open Doors World Watch List 2019 are accurately presented by World Watch Research (WWR) within the parameters of precision reached in the processing of information. Country profiles give a thorough, detailed, and differentiated account of the discrimination and persecution of Christians.

In depth inspection of four sample countries selected by the auditors gave evidence that published methodology was diligently applied by WWR staff. Processes and most sources were thoroughly documented and have been made transparently available on request. The documentation mechanisms have been improved and the number of countries examined in-depth and presented has again been substantially increased



International Institute for Religious Freedom
 Internationales Institut für Religionsfreiheit
 Institut international pour la liberté religieuse
 of the World Evangelical Alliance
 Bonn – Cape Town – Colombo

Audit Statement on the outcomes of the Open Doors World Watch List 2019

The results of the Open Doors World Watch List 2019 are accurately presented by World Watch Research (WWR) within the parameters of precision reached in the processing of information. Country profiles give a thorough, detailed, and differentiated account of the discrimination and persecution of Christians.

In depth inspection of four sample countries selected by the auditors gave evidence that published methodology was diligently applied by WWR staff. Processes and most sources were thoroughly documented and have been made transparently available on request. The documentation mechanisms have been improved and the number of countries examined in-depth and presented has again been substantially increased which leads to a better coverage of sub-Saharan Africa, as well as Latin America and Europe.

The scoring accurately reflects the methodology and information processed. Nevertheless, the reliability of each country score always depends on the depth and quality of the information received in the reporting period. This may vary from country to country.

The methodology document (November 2017) describes various quality assurance measures by the WWR staff with regard to consistency in application of the questionnaire and methodology. WWR gave credible written description of how these were applied.

Additional statements, documents or interpretations by Open Doors International or the Open Doors national affiliates based on or associated with the publication of the World Watch List 2019 remain outside the scope of this audit statement.

IIRF has submitted a list of recommendations for potential future improvements to Open Doors.

Bonn, Cape Town, Colombo, this 14 January 2019

Thomas Schirmacher
 Prof. Dr. theol. Dr. phil. Thomas Schirmacher (Director)

Christof Sauer
 Prof. Dr. Christof Sauer (Co-Director)

The Institute operates under the oversight of the World Evangelical Alliance and is registered as a company in Germany with its registered office at PO Box 205, Suite 6, Borough House, Rue de l'Église, Saint-Pierre Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, GY1 5AU. The Colombo Bureau is registered with the Asian Evangelical Alliance, Sri Lanka. The Cape Town Bureau is registered as 'IIRF Cape Town Bureau' in South Africa. The Bonn Bureau is registered under PO Box 4106, Bonn, 53111 Bonn, Germany. President: Prof. Dr. Thomas Schirmacher; Vice-president: Dr. Rainer Laatz.



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
- Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf
- Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

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

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, German Branch Tübingen, EU-Office Brussels)
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missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
www.missiotop.org

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance
www.europeanea.org

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

UN Bonn liaison for inter-religious concerns of WEA

WEA Sustainability Center
www.wea-sc.org

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

SOS World (Brussels)
www.sosworld.be/page-daccueil/

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IIRF Co-Director Prof. Dr. Christof Sauer, who co-ordinated the audit team, remarked: “I am impressed by the collegiality of the Persecution Analysts of the World Watch Research Unit of Open Doors International. I note a remarkable openness for critical feedback and ongoing efforts to improve the World Watch List.”

Downloads and Links:

- The original audit statement ([pdf](#))
- World Watch List 2019 Compilation ([pdf](#))
- Details on the methodology used in producing the annual World Watch List:
 - World Watch List Methodology – long version ([pdf](#))
 - World Watch List Methodology – Appendices – Part 1 ([pdf](#))
 - World Watch List Methodology – Appendices – Part 2 ([pdf](#))
- Website of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF): <https://iirf.eu>



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