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Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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International Institute for Religious Freedom audits World Watch List

(Bonn, 22.02.2016) For the third time the World Watch List of Open Doors has been audited positively by a team of 8 scholars of the International Institute for Religious Freedom. IIRF chose five 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 the whole process for all five countries, while five scholars checked one country each, of which they themselves are experts. The five scholars included further colleagues on specific questions where needed.

As a result IIRF submitted a list of proposals to improve the handling of differences in completed questionnaires on one and the same country. It was the first time, that IIRF did not submit suggestions to improve the questionnaire as such. "The questionnaire has been improved again and again and further changes are not a priority, rather the emphasis now needs to be on guaranteeing the quality of the responses to the questionnaire and on handling differences in opinion."

This is the audit statement:

"The results of the Open Doors World Watch List 2016 are accurately presented by the World Watch Research Unit (WWU) within the parameters of precision reached in the processing of information. The numerical data is complemented by differentiated interpretative country profiles. The auditors commend the implementation of new quality assurance measures by the WWU persecution analysts that were reported, both with regard to consistency in application of the questionnaire and methodology through group review of ambiguous questions and issues, as well as by selective mutual peer review of results on countries by pairs of persecution analysts."

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



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.com

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

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

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

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.thomasschirmacher.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/

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Research Unit of Open Doors International. I note a remarkable openness for critical feedback and ongoing efforts to improve the World Watch List.”

Downloads:

- Original audit statement ([pdf](#))
- WWL 2016 Compilation 1 – Short profiles – Edition 2016-02-01 ([pdf](#))
- WWL 2016 Compilation 2 – Long profiles – Edition 2016-02-01 ([pdf](#))
- WWL 2016 Compilation 3 – All WWL documents not including Country persecution dynamics – Edition 2016-01-28 ([pdf](#))

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