



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Voices from Honduras: Human Rights and Accountability

Panel I



Rev. Ismael Moreno Coto, SJ is an Afro-descendant Jesuit priest in northern Honduras, a journalist and a national human rights advocate. Affectionately known as Padre Melo, he serves as director of two social action projects of the Jesuits in Honduras: Radio Progreso, and Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación (ERIC), which provide critical real-time reporting and human rights observers/mediators. In 2015, Father Melo received the prestigious Rafto Prize in Norway for his “defense of freedom of expression in one of the most violent countries of the world.” In 2014, he and Radio

Progreso received the Legacy of the Martyrs Award from the Ignatian Solidarity Network, which works in partnership with U.S. Jesuit universities and parishes. Father Melo worked closely with Berta Cáceres, the indigenous environmental activist assassinated in 2016. Father Melo and his colleagues have received numerous death threats, and he is number two on a recently published assassination list of 13 social justice leaders.



Karla Rivas is a journalist with a degree from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma of Honduras. She coordinated the news department of Radio Progreso from 2002 to 2012. She has facilitated trainings in radio processes and analysis of context. In 2011, she received the Peter Mackler Award for Radio Progreso from the Global Media Forum and Reporters without Borders for ethical and courageous journalism. As part of the Investigation and Human Rights program of the Reflection, Investigation and

Communication Team (ERIC) - Radio Progreso, she coordinates the Jesuit Network: Migrant in Honduras.



Ely Castro Rosales was active in the student movement in high school, defending the human rights of students. He suffered persecution and a close family member was murdered. In the early 1990s, he entered the Universidad Nacional Autónoma of Honduras where he studied foreign languages and joined the student movement at the university. Until 2000, he was a professor of literature and grammar in several bilingual schools in the city of Tegucigalpa. Currently he is a social and political activist with the Convergence Against Continuance in the department of Cortes, serving as a local

coordinator and representative for the department to the Convergence at the national level.

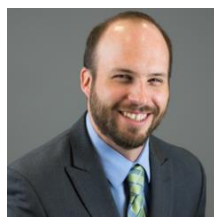


Lisa Haugaard is Executive Director of the Latin America Working Group, which serves a coalition of humanitarian aid agencies, faith-based and nongovernmental organizations. She has published numerous reports and articles on human rights issues in Latin America and U.S. policy towards the region and has participated in international human rights verification missions in Colombia, Mexico and Honduras. Prior to her work at the LAWG, she was executive director of the Central America Historical Institute in Washington, DC and writer, editor and translator for the Jesuit Instituto Histórico Centroamericano in Managua, Nicaragua. She has a BA from Swarthmore College, a Master's degree in Latin American studies from New York University, and was a Fulbright scholar in Central America.



Charles T. Call is Associate Professor of International Peace & Conflict Resolution in the School of International Service of American University, and a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute. From 2012-14, he was Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, where he oversaw the bureau's operations in Latin America. He has lived and worked in Central America, and directs the "Monitoring Anti-Impunity Efforts in Honduras" project of AU's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. He has published extensively on state-building, peacebuilding, and police and justice reform.

Moderator



Peter Meyer is a Specialist in Latin American Affairs at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), which provides nonpartisan policy analysis to committees and Members of Congress. He analyzes political, socioeconomic, and security trends in Honduras and several other Western Hemisphere nations, as well as U.S. policy in the region. Mr. Meyer joined CRS as a Presidential Management Fellow in 2008 and completed a six-month rotation at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2010. Prior to joining CRS, he received an M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico and a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish from St. John's University in Minnesota.