



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Co-Hosted by the Congressional Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus

Human Rights and Religious Freedom – **The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community**

Panel I



N. Mahmood Ahmad is the Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA and the General Secretary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Lawyers Association USA. Mr. Ahmad is a senior litigation associate at a prominent national law firm based in Washington DC. He has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives on the persecution of religious minorities in South and Central Asia on account of violent extremism, and participated in White House and State

Department summits focused on countering extremism and protecting religious freedom. He has written extensively about religious extremism and anti-blasphemy laws, and his writings have appeared in *The Washington Post* and other periodicals.



Farahnaz Ispahani is a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and a Senior Fellow for South and South East Asia at the Religious Freedom Institute in Washington, DC. She is the author of *Purifying the Land of the Pure: A History of Pakistan's Religious Minorities* (Oxford University Press 2017), a book on the persecution of religious minorities in Pakistan. Ispahani has been a leading voice for women and religious minorities in Pakistan for over two decades, working as a journalist, member of Pakistan's National Assembly, and most recently

as a United States-based scholar. An advocate of Pakistan's return to democracy during the military regime of Pervez Musharraf, she served as a spokesperson and international media coordinator for the Pakistan People's Party, working alongside the late Benazir Bhutto. During her tenure in parliament (2008–2012), she was a member of the Foreign Affairs and Human Rights committees and the Women's Parliamentary Caucus.



Eric Goldstein is the Deputy Director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa division. He is an expert on Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Western Sahara. He has conducted research missions to these and other regions of the Middle East since the 1980s, writing numerous reports for Human Rights Watch and publishing articles in news media and academic journals. He has taught courses on human rights at Princeton and Georgetown universities. Before joining Human Rights Watch, Goldstein worked at the Committee to Protect Journalists. He holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and a master's in international affairs from Columbia University.

Moderator



Dr. Waris Husain is a Policy Analyst at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), focusing on South Asia countries. He received his SJD degree from American University Washington College of Law in 2017, specializing in constitutional and comparative law. His dissertation focused on the development of judicial review in the Supreme Courts of Pakistan, India, and the United States. Dr. Husain is also an adjunct professor of international law at the Howard University School of Law. Dr. Husain served as a comparative constitutional law lecturer for the United States Embassy of Nepal, expanding person-to-person connections between constitutional academics and practitioners of law in Nepal. He co-founded the South Asia Jurist, an online publication focused on legal developments across South Asia. Dr. Husain also served as a legal affairs writer for Dawn Newsgroup and Express Tribune in Pakistan.