



## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

### Witness Biographies

## Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights: Striking the Right Balance

### Panel I



**Fionnuala D. Ní Aoláin** has served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism since August 1, 2017. She is a University Regents Professor at the University of Minnesota; holder of the Robina Chair in Law, Public Policy, and Society; and faculty director of the Human Rights Center at the University of Minnesota Law School. She is concurrently a professor of law at the Queen's University of Belfast, School of Law. Her most recent book, *Exceptional Courts and Military Commissions in Comparative and Policy Perspective*, co-authored with Professor Oren Gross, examines the use of exceptional courts across numerous jurisdictions, with particular emphasis on post-9/11 developments. She has published widely in the fields of emergency powers, conflict regulation, transitional justice, and sex-based violence in times of war and continues to write extensively on theoretical aspects of transition. Ms. Ní Aoláin was a representative of the prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at domestic war crimes trials in Bosnia (1996-97). In 2003, she was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as Special Expert on promoting gender equality in times of conflict and peace-making. In 2011, she was appointed as consultant jointly by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and UN WOMEN to prepare a Study on Reparations for Conflict Related Sexual Violence. In 2015, she was appointed by the International Criminal Court's Trust Fund for Victims to lead an Expert Review on Reparations to victims in the Court's first case.

## Panel II



**Tom Parker** is currently the Project Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism Programs in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office in Nigeria. He previously served as an adviser to the Office of the National Security Adviser in Baghdad during the conflict with ISIS, as an adviser on human rights and counter-terrorism to United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), and as the Policy Director for Terrorism, Counterterrorism and Human Rights for Amnesty International USA. He has also served as a war crimes investigator for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), a transitional justice adviser to the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), and an Intelligence Officer in the British Security Service (MI5). Mr. Parker is the author of *Avoiding the Terrorist Trap: Why Respect for Human Rights is the Key to Defeating Terrorism*.

## Panel III



**Lana Baydas, Ph.D.** is Senior Program Manager at the American Bar Association Center for Human Rights. Prior to joining the Center, she was a senior fellow with the Human Rights Initiative (HRI) of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where she led research and policy efforts related to closing civic space. Dr. Baydas held posts at headquarters and in field operations with the United Nations, Crisis Action, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. She has worked extensively in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region on the protection and promotion of human rights. She holds a Ph.D. and LL.M. in public international law from the University of Glasgow in Scotland and a B.A. in political science from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.



**Bahey eldin Hassan** is a journalist, writer, lecturer, and the director of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS). He was one of the founders of the Egyptian human rights movement in the 1980s. In 2014 he moved to France after receiving death threats for his human rights work. Due to his public criticism of the human rights situation in Egypt, Egyptian courts froze his assets and sentenced him to a total of 18 years in prison.



**Ambika Satkunanathan** is a human rights lawyer based in Sri Lanka who is currently a Fellow of the Open Society Foundations. From Oct 2015 to March 2020, she was a Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, where she led the first ever national study of prisons. Her report on drug control, detention and rehabilitation in Sri Lanka, the first such study, was published in August 2021 by Harm Reduction International. She is a member of the Expert Panel of the Trial Watch Project of the Clooney Foundation and a member of the Network of Experts of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime. Her publications include contributions to the Oxford Handbook of Gender & Conflict, the Routledge Handbook on Human Rights in South Asia, and Contemporary South Asia. She is an affiliate of the Eleos Justice Centre, Faculty of Law, Monash University, Australia.



**Anietie Ewang** is the Nigeria researcher at Human Rights Watch where she carries out research and advocacy on human rights issues in Nigeria. Ms. Ewang has conducted field investigations across the country and authored many reports, press releases and dispatches that provide insight into critical problems including the northeast Boko Haram conflict. Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, she worked as a Senior Staff Attorney at the Social and Economic Rights Action Center in Nigeria.



**Dr. Adrian Zenz** is a non-resident Senior Fellow in China Studies at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, Washington, D.C., and supervises Ph.D. students at the European School of Culture and Theology, Korntal, Germany. His research focus is on China's ethnic policy, public recruitment in Tibet and Xinjiang, Beijing's internment campaign in Xinjiang, and China's domestic security budgets. Dr. Zenz is the author of *'Tibetanness' under Threat* and co-editor of *Mapping Amdo: Dynamics of Change*. He has played a leading role in the analysis of leaked Chinese government documents, including the "China Cables" and the "Karakax List." Dr. Zenz advises the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China and is a frequent contributor to the international media.



**Jocelyn Nieva** is the Senior Legal Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean at the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), managing projects with partners throughout the region on topics including reform of laws governing civil society organization (CSO) lifecycles, access to funding, and public assemblies. Among her recent research publications is a ground-breaking comprehensive Spanish-language Toolkit for CSOs on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism standards, and opportunities for CSO engagement. Ms. Nieva works to ensure that local partners can better assess the situation of the rights to freedom of association, assembly, and expression, and work collaboratively on reforms. Prior to joining ICNL in 2007, Ms. Nieva served as Assistant General Counsel of the Inter-American Foundation.