



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Witness Biographies

Human Rights in Mexico

Panel I



María Luisa Aguilar Rodríguez is the Coordinator for International Advocacy at the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Centre (Centro ProDH). She works in Mexico on the design and implementation of national and international advocacy strategies on serious human rights violations, mainly in cases of enforced disappearances, sexual torture, and women's and indigenous peoples' rights. From 2010 to 2016, she worked at Tlachinollan, in Guerrero, a local human rights organization. She holds an MA in Human Rights Theory and Practice from the University of Essex in England and a BA in International Relations from the *Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey*, Campus Monterrey (ITESM) in Mexico.



Paula María Saucedo Ruíz is Protection and Defense Officer for Mexico and Central America at Article 19. She leads protection strategies for journalists in the country, as well as security training for journalists and human rights defenders. She also coordinates the advocacy strategies to promote freedom of expression and protection for journalists as well as strategic litigation for the promotion of the right to protest. Paula is a gender and human rights defender, with over 9 years of experience working with several NGOs, United Nations, and International Cooperation Agencies. She holds a BA in International Relations from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and has an MA in International Development and Gender from the University of Melbourne. She also has a diploma in Cyber Security from Malta University.



Tyler Mattiace is an Americas researcher at Human Rights Watch covering Mexico and Guatemala. His recent work has focused on immigration and access to asylum, press freedom and violence against journalists, abuses by police and the military, prison conditions, among other issues. He has lived and worked in many parts of Latin America and the Caribbean. He holds a master's degree from the London School of Economics and an undergraduate degree from the University of St Andrews, Scotland. He is fluent in English and Spanish.



Stephanie Brewer is the Director for Mexico and Migrant Rights at WOLA. She advocates for policy improvements on both sides of the border to protect human rights and support the rule of law in Mexico, with a focus on public security, criminal justice, protection of migrant rights, and the prevention and punishment of torture, enforced disappearance, and other serious human rights violations. She monitors the impact of U.S. policy toward Mexico in these areas and advocates for placing human rights at the center of the U.S.-Mexico relationship and prioritizing the well-being of the population.



José R. Cárdenas is a Principal with the Cormac Group and has served in senior positions in the U.S. Department of State, National Security Council, USAID, OAS and as a Senior Professional Staff Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In addition to testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations and the House Foreign Affairs Committees, he has written and spoken and been interviewed widely, and is an advisor to the Foundation for Human Rights in Cuba and member of the Research Council of the Center for a Free Cuba. He is a Course Coordinator at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute and has been a participant in the State Department's overseas Speakers Program