



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

The Peace Process in South Sudan

Panel I



The Most Rev. Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala is the Catholic bishop of Tombura-Yambio diocese in South Sudan. When he was nine months old, his mother was killed when their village was attacked and destroyed. He lived with his grandmother in a refugee camp for five years and when they returned to Sudan, they lived in the Sudanese Internal Displaced Persons Camp. These early experiences shaped Bishop Kussala's passionate dedication to peace. During the Sudanese civil war he was involved in providing pastoral services to over 42,000 Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic, and was head teacher of a secondary school in the refugee's camp. In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him bishop of the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio. The diocese he serves struggles with extreme poverty and only 2% of the population have completed primary school. Bishop Kussala holds an MA in bioethics in addition to government politics and international relations, and a PhD in moral theology. He is the author of several articles and three books. His latest book, *Reconciliation, Healing and Peace in South Sudan: Reflections on the Way Forward*, focuses on the importance of learning from the mistakes of the past to prevent them in the future. He emphasizes that faith plays a fundamental role in the process of preserving the nation for future generations. Bishop Kussala is also Chancellor of the Catholic University of South Sudan, which was built and is supported by Sudan Relief Fund. It is the only university in South Sudan still functioning and graduating students. Bishop Kussala was recently elected as the new president of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference, which covers both Sudan and South Sudan. He assumed his duties as president on January 1, 2017 and retains his integral role as shepherd of the faithful in Tombura-Yambio.



David Dettoni is Director of Operations for the Sudan Relief Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing food, safe drinking water and medical attention to the people of South Sudan, and the Managing Director of TSA Transatlantische Stiftung für Afrika, an organization which seeks to coordinate economic development cooperation between Germany and the

United States for the benefit of organizations and institutions in Africa, including South Sudan. Previously, Mr. Dettoni was the Director of Operations and Outreach at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). Mr. Dettoni was also a Senior Legislative Assistant to Representative Frank R. Wolf. He assisted Rep. Wolf in foreign policy, national security, and global human rights initiatives, and was the Co-Staff Director of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, a precursor to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.



Daniel P. Sullivan is the senior advocate for human rights at Refugees International. Dan focuses on Myanmar, Sudan, South Sudan, and other areas affected by mass displacement. Prior to joining RI, Dan worked for five years with United to End Genocide (formerly Save Darfur), first as a senior policy analyst then as director of policy and government relations, leading strategic planning, report writing, and development of policy recommendations on Myanmar, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. He has more than 15 years of human rights and foreign policy experience having worked for the Brookings Institution, Human Rights First, and the Albright Stonebridge Group, where he assisted former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in her role as co-chair of the Genocide Prevention Task Force. Dan has been a featured speaker at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the London School of Economics and has provided expert testimony before the U.S. Congress. He has been featured on several media outlets including MSNBC, CBS News, NPR, Al Jazeera, and Voice of America TV. His work has been published in the *Journal of Modern African Studies*, the *Journal of Peace Research*, *The Nation*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and *USA Today*. Dan has a Master's degree in International Conflict Management from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Harvard University.