



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

The Current Human Rights Situation in South Sudan:

Panel I

Ambassador Susan D. Page, Special Advisor to the Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan, Department of State



Susan D. Page was confirmed as the Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan on October 18, 2011. She arrived in Juba on December 6, 2011. Previously Ms. Page was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs at the U.S. State Department, principally covering central and southern Africa. Ms. Page is a Harvard-trained lawyer with 22 years of experience and spent 15 consecutive years working and living throughout sub-Saharan Africa. She has served as a political officer, legal advisor, and diplomat with the U.S. State Department, USAID, and the United Nations. She has testified before congressional committees, served on numerous panels and been interviewed by media outlets such as BBC (TV), Radio France International, NPR, and VOA on a range of African issues. She is a fluent French speaker.

Before focusing on Sudan, Ms. Page headed the Justice and Human Rights Unit of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Rwanda. Earlier in Kigali, Ms. Page spent two years as the political officer at the U.S. Embassy where she served as the primary political officer in Rwanda monitoring and reporting on issues related to the war in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo; served as the key contact between the Embassy and the Rwandan-backed rebels, RCD-Goma; monitored the operations of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR); drafted the 1999 and 2000 U.S. State Department Human Rights Report for Rwanda; and analyzed Rwandan laws on the establishment of gacaca, a form of community based participatory justice modified to try genocide suspects.

Ms. Page received an A.B. in English with high distinction from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. She has also studied at St. Andrews University in Scotland and conducted research on children and women's rights in Nepal through a Rotary International post-graduate fellowship.

Linda Etim, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, US Agency for International Development



Linda Etim was appointed as deputy assistant administrator for Africa in January 2012. In this capacity, she oversees the Office of Sudan and South Sudan Programs and the Office of East African Affairs. Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Etim served as the White House Director for Sudan, South Sudan, and East African Affairs (2009-12), where she was responsible for coordinating U.S. policy on some of the African continent's most important challenges, including civil-military affairs, governance, economic growth and humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa. Etim was the primary drafter of U.S. Government strategies for Sudan and Somalia. For the last 10 years, Etim has worked for the U.S. Government as a specialist in African security affairs.

Ms. Etim received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in African International Affairs, French and Portuguese.

Panel II

Adotei Akwei, Managing Director, Government Relations, Amnesty International USA



Adotei Akwei is Managing Director for Government Relations for Amnesty International USA. Before rejoining AIUSA, Adotei was the Deputy Director for Government Relations for CARE USA. As Deputy he worked on Climate Change, Emergencies, Countries in Conflict and Micro-finance in sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to taking this position he served as Regional Advocacy Advisor for CARE's Asia Regional Management Unit, where he supported CARE country offices in the development and implementation of national level advocacy strategies, as well as helping develop and implement regional advocacy priorities. Before joining CARE, Mr. Akwei worked with Amnesty International USA for 11 years, first as the senior Advocacy Director for

Africa and then later as Director of Campaigns. Mr. Akwei also served as the Africa Director for the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, now Human Rights First, and as the Research and Human Rights Director for the American Committee on Africa and the Africa Fund. Mr. Akwei received his Masters in International Relations from the College of William and Mary and his Bachelors from the State University of New York College at Purchase.

Akshaya Kumar, Sudan and South Sudan Policy Analyst, Enough Project



Akshaya Kumar is the Sudan and South Sudan Policy Analyst for the Enough Project. Prior to coming to Enough, Akshaya was a Law Fellow at the Public International Law and Policy Group, or PILPG, where she served as a legal adviser to the government of the Republic of South Sudan. While at PILPG, Akshaya also supported the efforts of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement -North to secure humanitarian aid access for war-affected populations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Akshaya has previously worked in South Sudan as a population based researcher for UNHCR and the ILO and

also spent time in Uganda working for a local access to justice organization. While in law school, Akshaya interned with the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, UN Women and the International Committee of the Red Cross's legal delegation to the United Nations.

Akshaya holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School, an LLM with distinction in Human Rights, Conflict, and Justice from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies and a B.A. from the George Washington University's Elliott School. Akshaya is originally from Chennai in South India and speaks Arabic, Hindi, Tamil, Spanish and French. She's passionate about gender sensitive transitional justice, promoting arts education for children, and collecting passport stamps.

Bill O'Keefe, Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy, Catholic Relief Services



Bill O'Keefe is Catholic Relief Services' vice president for advocacy, based in Baltimore. He oversees CRS' efforts to change U.S. foreign policy in ways that promote justice and reduce poverty overseas. This involves lobbying Congress and the Administration on a range of foreign policy issues and educating Catholics in the United States about international issues and involving them in public campaigns for policy change.

Mr. O'Keefe joined CRS in 1987 as a project manager in Tanzania and chaired the sub-regional task force on HIV and AIDS. Mr. O'Keefe next became assistant desk officer for CRS in East Africa, based in Baltimore, where he evaluated and monitored the agency's emergency relief and rehabilitation projects in Ethiopia and Sudan and helped to develop procedural guidelines for field operations. He subsequently served as desk officer for West and Southern Africa.

In 1994, Mr. O'Keefe was appointed director of CRS' flagship program Operation Rice Bowl and later became director of church outreach for CRS. In 2001, Mr. O'Keefe became CRS' director for government relations. In this capacity he led the agency's new advocacy program targeted at U.S. government officials and members of international organizations. He managed the development of CRS policies on U.S. foreign assistance and agricultural trade policy and oversaw a two-year advocacy campaign to involve Americans in policy change for Africa. He was appointed senior director for advocacy in 2003 and vice president for advocacy in 2010.

Mr. O'Keefe holds a B.S. from Yale and a master's in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.