



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Confronting the Genocide of Religious Minorities: A Way Forward

Tuesday, April 19th, 2016

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

1334 Longworth House Office Building

Witnesses

Panel I



David N. Saperstein is the United States State Department Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom. He was confirmed by the Senate on December 12, 2014, and was sworn in and assumed his duties on January 6, 2015. The Ambassador at Large is, by law, a principal advisor to the President and Secretary of State and serves as the United States' chief diplomat on issues of religious freedom worldwide. He also heads the Office of International Religious Freedom in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. The President also has designated Ambassador Saperstein to carry out the duties in the Near

East and South Central Asia Religious Freedom Act of 2014.

In 1999, Ambassador Saperstein served as the first Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. In 2009 he was appointed by President Obama as a member of the first White House Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. From 2011-2014, he served on the State Department's Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society" as a member of its "Religion and Foreign Policy" working group.

Panel II



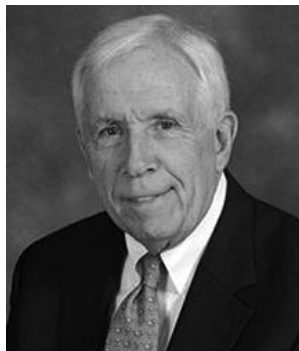
Dr. Robert P. George, is the current chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. He is also the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University. He has been a Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School, and is a Senior Fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

He has served on the President's Council on Bioethics and as a presidential appointee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. He has also served on UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), of which he remains a corresponding member.

A graduate of Swarthmore College and Harvard Law School, Professor George also earned a master's degree in theology from Harvard and a doctorate in philosophy of law from Oxford University, which he attended on a Knox Scholarship from Harvard. He holds honorary doctorates of law, letters, science, ethics, divinity, humane letters, civil law, and juridical science.

Dr. George was appointed to the Commission on March 22, 2012 by Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) and was reappointed to a second term in 2014.

Panel III



Congressman Frank Wolf is the Distinguished Senior Fellow of the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative. He has been widely recognized as the "conscience" of the Congress. First elected in 1980, he announced in December 2013 that he would leave the House of Representatives at the end of his 17th term to focus exclusively on human rights and religious freedom.

In January 2015, Wolf was appointed the first-ever Wilson Chair in Religious Freedom at Baylor University. That same month he joined the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, a newly created religious freedom group, as Distinguished Senior Fellow

Wolf is the author of the International Religious Freedom Act, which infused America's first freedom – religious freedom – into U.S. foreign policy by creating the International Religious

Freedom Office at the State Department headed by an Ambassador-at-Large. It also established the bipartisan, independent U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Wolf also is the author of the legislation to create a special envoy at the U.S. State Department to advocate for religious minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

Wolf founded and served as co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, a bipartisan organization made up of nearly 200 Members of Congress who work together to raise awareness about international human rights issues.



Carl Anderson is the current Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus. Under Carl Anderson's leadership as CEO, the Knights of Columbus has achieved new charitable records, including raising more than \$10.5 million raised for Christians and other persecuted minorities in the Middle East, while also spearheading the effort to have the situation facing them declared genocide. This included producing a nearly 300-page report on the issue at the request of the U.S. State Department.

A lawyer, New York Times bestselling author, and current member of several Vatican committees, Mr. Anderson served for nearly a decade on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; and, before that, as acting director of the White House Office of Public Liaison



Douglas Irvin-Erickson, Ph.D., is Fellow of Peacemaking Practice and Director of the Genocide Prevention Program at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, where he teaches courses on genocide and conflict. An expert on genocide and international law, Irvin-Erickson has served as the Director of Outreach for the Rutgers Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, and has worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Argentina. He is the author of chapters and articles on genocide and political theory, and the co-editor of *Hidden Genocides: Power, Knowledge, and Memory*. His current research includes a book on the life and works of Raphael Lemkin, the originator of the word "genocide" who authored the UN Genocide Convention; and a co-edited volume titled, *Violence, Religion, Peacemaking: Contributions of Interreligious Dialogue*. Irvin-Erickson also serves as Associate Editor of *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal*, the official publication of the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

