

BIOGRAPHIES

Maryam Al-Khawaja (Alkhawaja)

Head of Foreign Relations Office

Bahrain Center for Human Rights

Maryam Al-Khawaja is the Head of the Foreign Relations Office for the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. Ms. Al-Khawaja returned to Bahrain when she was 14 after her family had sought refuge in Denmark for 12 years. She then became an active member of the Bahraini youth movement. She is a former leader of “Association Internationale des Étudiants en Sciences Économiques et Commerciales-Bahrain” (AIESEC-Bahrain) and assisted with efforts to bridge the gap among Shi’a and Sunni Bahraini youth. AIESEC is the world’s largest student organization and acts as the international platform for young people to discover and develop their potential so as to have a positive impact on society. Ms. Al-Khawaja is a 2006 Georgetown University Middle East Partnership Initiative Alumna. She has testified previously before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in 2008 regarding political reform and religious freedom in Bahrain.

Joe Stork

Deputy Director, Middle East and North Africa Division

Human Rights Watch

Joe Stork, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa division, is a general expert on human rights issues in the region. Before joining Human Rights Watch in 1996, Stork co-founded the Middle East Research & Information Project (MERIP) and served as chief editor of Middle East Report, its bimonthly magazine. Author of numerous books and widely published articles on the Middle East, he has lectured widely at universities and public forums around the world. Stork served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkey and holds an M.A. in International Affairs/Middle East Studies from Columbia University.

Richard Sollom, MA, MPH

Deputy Director

Physicians for Human Rights

Richard Sollom is Deputy Director at Physicians for Human Rights where he has served for five years in various roles, including Senior Program Associate and Director of Research and Investigations. He currently oversees programs on health, emergency response, armed conflict, asylum, and UN advocacy initiatives. Sollom led PHR's health and human rights investigations in Bangkok, Bangladesh, Burma, and Zimbabwe.

Over the past two decades, Rick has investigated human rights violations in 20 countries worldwide. Prior to his work with PHR, he served with the United Nations in Haiti, Somalia, and Burundi. He is a former Peace Corps Volunteer, Fulbright Fellow, Albert Schweitzer Fellow, and holds advanced degrees in public international law from The Fletcher School and in global health from Harvard University.