

Donald Steinberg Deputy Administrator Deputy Administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development

Donald Steinberg serves as Deputy Administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development In this capacity, he provides overall direction and management for the principal U.S. development agency and is particularly focused on developments in the Middle East and Africa, reforms under USAID Forward and the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, integration and mainstreaming of gender and disabilities into agency programming, and enhanced dialogue with development partners, including civil society, business, foreign donors, international institutions, Congress, and other U.S. government agencies.

Ambassador Steinberg previously served as deputy president for policy at International Crisis Group, where he directed policy, advocacy, and report writing for this nonprofit organization seeking to prevent, contain and resolve deadly conflict. He also served as a Randolph Jennings Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he researched, wrote, and advocated on behalf of the world's 25 million internally displaced persons.

During his nearly 30 years with the U.S. government, he served as Director of the State Department's Joint Policy Council, Deputy White House Press Secretary, National Security Council Senior Director for African Affairs, Special Haiti Coordinator, U.S. Ambassador to Angola, and Special Representative of the President for Humanitarian Demining.



The Honorable Michael H. Posner, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor:

Michael H. Posner was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor on September 23, 2009.

Prior to joining State Department, Mr. Posner was the Executive Director and then President of Human Rights First. As its Executive Director he helped the organization earn a reputation for leadership in the areas of refugee protection, advancing a rights-based approach to national security, challenging crimes against humanity, and combating discrimination.

Mr. Posner played a key role in proposing and campaigning for the first U.S. law providing for political asylum, which became part of the Refugee Act of 1980. In 1998, he led the Human Rights First delegation to the Rome conference at which the statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) was adopted.



Tomicah Tillemann, Senior Advisor for Civil Society and Emerging Democracies:

The Secretary appointed Tomicah Tillemann as Senior Advisor for Civil Society and Emerging Democracies in October 2010. In coordination and collaboration with department bureaus, Dr. Tillemann and his staff are responsible for helping to develop and operationalize the Secretary's civil society agenda and strengthen emerging democracies. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Tillemann served as a speechwriter to the Secretary and assisted her in framing and articulating the policies of the United States for a global audience. Before joining the Department of State, he worked for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he was the principal policy advisor on European and Eurasian affairs to then-Chairman Joseph Biden.



Adotei Akwei Managing Director for Government Relations

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. He is originally from Ghana.



Lisa Haugaard executive director of the Latin America Working Group.

Lisa Haugaard is executive director of the Latin America Working Group. The Latin America Working Group serves a coalition of over 60 faith-based, humanitarian, human rights, policy and grassroots organizations, encouraging U.S. policies that support human rights, poverty reduction and conflict resolution. She has focused on Colombia and Central America policy, development assistance, human rights policy, and other topics. Prior to her work at the Latin America Working Group, Ms. Haugaard was executive director of the Central America Historical Institute in Washington, DC, a lecturer at Georgetown University and writer, editor and translator for the Jesuit Instituto Histórico Centroamericano in Managua, Nicaragua. Ms. Haugaard has a BA from Swarthmore College, a Master's degree in Latin American studies from New York University, and received a MacArthur Foundation fellowship and was a Fulbright scholar in Central America.



Brian Dooley Director Human Rights Defenders Program Human Rights First

As director of the Human Rights Defenders program, Brian leads Human Rights First's efforts to ensure that human rights defenders can work free from harm and interference, engaging with the U.S. government and with other partners to end threats and obstacles to human rights work.

For the 20 years prior to joining Human Rights First, Brian worked for U.S., Irish and international NGOs. Most recently, Brian led Amnesty International's work on partnering with national NGOs in the global South. Brian has also worked as Head of Media for Amnesty International in London and in Dublin, and as Director of Communications for Public Citizen in Washington, D.C. He is the author of several books about civil rights and U.S. politics, and had early experience on the Hill, interning for Senator Edward Kennedy in the mid-80s as a legislative researcher, contributing to what ultimately became the 1986 Anti-Apartheid Act. Before that, he lived and worked as an English teacher and community organizer in a black township in South Africa in 1981-82, which was prohibited under apartheid's racial segregation laws.

Brian has an MPhil in Government and Politics from The Open University in London, and a B.A. with honors in Political Science from the University of East Anglia.