



**Michael H. Posner**

Assistant Secretary of State  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights,  
and Labor  
U.S. Department of State

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. He has been a frequent public commentator on these and other issues, and has testified dozens of times before the U.S. Congress. In January 2006, Mr. Posner stepped down as Executive Director to become the President of Human Rights First, a position he held until his appointment as Assistant Secretary.



**Robert Mahoney**

Deputy Director  
Committee to Protect Journalists

Robert Mahoney worked as a journalist in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East before joining CPJ in August 2005 as senior editor. He reported on politics and economics for Reuters news agency from Brussels and Paris in the late 1970s, and from Southeast Asia in the early 1980s. He covered south Asia from Delhi for three years from 1985, reporting on the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination, the civil war in Sri Lanka, and the fallout from the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. In 1988, Mahoney became Reuters bureau chief for West and Central Africa based in Ivory Coast, spending considerable time in Liberia covering the civil war.



**Karin Deutsch Karlekar**

Project Director of “Freedom of the Press,”  
Freedom House

Dr. Karlekar is the project director of Freedom of the Press, an annual index that tracks trends in media freedom worldwide. She coordinates the research, ratings, and editorial processes for the index, and also writes a number of the country reports.

In addition, she led the development of the methodology for and coordinated the pilot edition of a new index of internet and digital media freedom published in April 2009. She regularly serves as a spokesperson for Freedom House on media issues, has been quoted extensively in U.S. and foreign media outlets, and has represented the organization at numerous conferences, workshops, and events on the topics of media indicators, internet and digital media freedom, and press freedom.



**Rev. Ismael Moreno Coto**

Director of Radio Progreso  
Honduras

Reverend Ismael Moreno Coto also known as Padre Melo was born in the city of El Progreso, Yoro, Honduras in 1958. Rev. Moreno joined the Society of Jesus in 1978 and was ordained a priest in El Progreso, Honduras in 1989. In addition to serving as a parish priest in Honduras, Padre Melo has held various positions in the Central American Province of the Society of Jesus, including his current involvement in the Provincial Commission of the Social Apostolate (CPAS). Since 2001, he has been director of the Jesuit Working Group for Reflection, Information and Communication, known by its Spanish acronym ERIC (Equipo de Reflexión, Información y Comunicación). Since 2006, Padre Melo has served as director of the Jesuit-run radio station called Radio Progreso. In 2008, he demonstrated his opposition to government corruption by participating in a 38-day hunger strike in front of the Honduran Congress.



**Vladimir V. Kara-Murza**

Former Washington Bureau Chief  
Russian Television International (RTVi)

Vladimir V. Kara-Murza served as the Washington bureau chief of RTVi, an international Russian-language television network, from 2004 to 2012. He was previously a correspondent for *Novye Izvestia* and *Kommersant* newspapers, and editor-in-chief of the *Russian Investment Review*. He has published op-eds in the *Financial Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and writes a weekly blog, *Spotlight on Russia*, for *World Affairs*. In 2005, he produced *They Chose Freedom*, a television documentary on dissent in the Soviet Union. Kara-Murza is a member of the federal council of the Republican Party of Russia—People’s Freedom Party, and of *Solidarnost* (“Solidarity”), Russia’s democratic opposition movement which was instrumental in organizing mass protests after the flawed 2011 parliamentary elections.