



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Witness Biographies

The State of Exception in El Salvador: Year Five

April 16, 2:00 pm



Sergio Arauz has 25 years of experience in investigative journalism and is the president of the Association of Journalists of El Salvador (APES), a professional organization that documents and denounces judicial harassment, illegal surveillance, threats, and forced exile affecting dozens of Salvadoran journalists. He is also deputy editor-in-chief of El Faro, where he specializes in corruption, politics, and organized crime. In 2013, he received the Latin American Journalism Award for exposing government negotiations with gangs to reduce homicide rates. In 2019, he was awarded the RELE Prize, granted by IPYS and the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and in 2020 he received an honorable mention from the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) for his investigation into hidden bonuses in ARENA and FMLN governments.



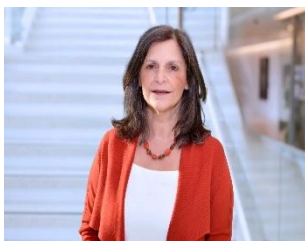
Isabel Carlota Roby is a Senior Staff Attorney for Latin America at the Robert & Ethel Kennedy Human Rights Center, where she leads strategic litigation and advocacy initiatives across the region, including in El Salvador, Venezuela, Guatemala, Brazil, and Cuba. She holds a law degree from the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Caracas, Venezuela, her hometown, and has completed graduate studies at Harvard Law School, the University of Amsterdam, and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Her research has focused on international criminal responsibility for core international crimes, as well as the instrumentalization of legal frameworks and human rights discourse by emerging authoritarian regimes.



Noah Bullock is the Executive Director of Cristosal, a regional human rights organization with 25 years of experience and presence in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. He has led the organization since 2010, overseeing its growth into one of the leading human rights institutions in Central America. His work at Cristosal includes transitional justice, the protection of victims of internal displacement, and the promotion of rule of law, democratic security, and anti-corruption efforts. He has led specialized initiatives to investigate and seek justice for grave human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, and extrajudicial killings. He joined Cristosal in 2005 and has held various roles within the organization, including directing its Community Development Program from 2006 to 2009. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Montana, a postgraduate degree in Local Development from Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas and completed coursework at the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) at the University of Ulster.



Juan Pappier is the Americas deputy director at Human Rights Watch. He oversees the organization's research and advocacy efforts on large parts of Latin America and the Caribbean and leads Human Rights Watch's advocacy on the region in Washington, DC. He has a decade of experience documenting and reporting on human rights violations, including political repression and abuses related to armed conflicts, security policies, and attacks on the rule of law in Latin America. He has worked as a consultant for Chile's National Human Rights Institute and taught international human rights law in the Torcuato di Tella and San Martín universities, in Argentina. He studied law in the Torcuato di Tella University and obtained an Masters of Law degree (LL.M.) in International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.



Susana SáCouto directs the War Crimes Research Office and the Hague Summer Law Program at American University Washington College of Law, where she teaches courses on international criminal law (ICL) and procedure, including an experiential learning course in ICL. She has advised and provided legal assistance on ICL issues to international, regional and domestic courts, and has published widely on issues at the intersection of gender and ICL, including a co-edited volume on Gender and International Criminal Law (OUP, 2022), which was awarded the Best Book prize from the Women in International Law Interest Group of the American Society of International Law. Her background prior to joining WCL includes extensive practical experience with organizations working on human rights and international justice issues at both the domestic and international level. She is co-founder of the Latin American Network for Gender-based Strategic Litigation, former Advisory Council Member of the International Association of Prosecutors' Prosecuting Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Network, and former co-chair of the American Society for International Law's Women in International Law Interest Group.