



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Witness Biographies

India: Recent Human Rights Reporting

Panel I



Stephen Schneck is a Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), appointed by President Joseph R. Biden. Commissioner Schneck retired from The Catholic University of America in 2018, after more than thirty years as a professor, department chair, and dean. At the university, he was also the founder and long-time director of the Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies. He currently serves on the governing boards of Catholic Climate Covenant, which advocates for environmental justice and care for creation, and of Catholic Mobilizing Network, a Catholic organization working to end the death penalty and advance restorative justice. Previously, he was the executive director of Franciscan Action Network, which promotes environmental, economic, racial, and social justice on behalf of the Franciscan communities of the United States. He served as a member of the White House Advisory Council for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships during the Obama Administration. He received his doctorate from the University of Notre Dame.

Panel II



Carolyn Nash is the Asia Advocacy Director for Amnesty International USA. Prior to joining Amnesty, Ms. Nash lived in Myanmar, where she managed human rights and governance programs. She has also lived in and worked on human rights programming on Indonesia, East Timor, Kenya, and Uganda. She was a 2017 Pacific Delegate with the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, the 2018 Southeast Asia Fellow for Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, a 2021 Penn Kemble Fellow with the National Endowment for Democracy, and a 2023 Mansfield-Luce Asia Scholar. Ms. Nash received her M.A. in International Relations and Economics with a focus on Politics and Governance from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and her B.A. in English literature from Columbia University.



John Sifton is the Asia Advocacy Director at Human Rights Watch where he previously served as a researcher and as Acting Deputy Washington Director. He focuses on South and Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Middle East, and terrorism and counter-terrorism issues worldwide. Mr. Sifton began working at Human Rights Watch in 2001, first as a researcher on Afghanistan and Pakistan, and then as the senior researcher on terrorism and counterterrorism. He founded a public interest investigation firm, One World Research, which he directed from 2007 to 2010. In 2000 and 2001, Mr. Sifton worked for the International Rescue Committee, primarily in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in 1999 at a refugee advocacy organization in Albania and Kosovo. He holds a law degree from New York University School of Law and a bachelor's degree from St. John's College, Annapolis.



Dr. Waris Husain is the Legal Advisor for South and Southeast Asia with the American Bar Association (ABA) Justice Defenders Program. Prior to joining the ABA's Center for Human Rights, Dr. Husain was a Policy Analyst at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom covering the South Asia region. He is an adjunct professor of international law at the Howard University School of Law. Dr. Husain received his S.J.D. degree from American University Washington College of Law in 2017, specializing in constitutional and comparative law. His dissertation focused on the development of judicial review in the Supreme Courts of Pakistan, India, and the United States and was published by Routledge South Asia in 2017. Dr. Husain received his J.D. from the Howard University School of Law in 2011 and his LL.M. at American University Washington College of Law in 2013, specializing in international human rights and international business.



Adrian Shahbaz is Vice President of Research and Analysis at Freedom House, where he oversees the organization's portfolio of annual publications and special reports. These include Freedom House's flagship study, *Freedom in the World*, the widely consulted annual reports *Freedom on the Net* and *Nations in Transit*, and new streams of work on transnational repression, China's global influence, election integrity, and media freedom. Adrian previously served as Freedom House's director for technology and democracy, leading the creation and expansion of a multidimensional program dedicated to monitoring the global state of human rights online, analyzing digital threats to election integrity, and advocating for a free and open internet. Prior to joining Freedom House, he worked as a researcher at the UN Department of Political Affairs, the European Parliament, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). He holds a master's degree from the London School of Economics.



Isaac Six is Senior Director of Advocacy at Global Christian Relief. He has worked on a wide array of human rights and international religious freedom issues in various capacities in Washington D.C. for over a decade, including as Director of Congressional Affairs and Communications for the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Advocacy Director for International Christian Concern, and as a Fellow for the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission under the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He has visited and interviewed survivors of religious freedom violations in China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, among others, while instituting new projects to assist and advocate for those survivors and their communities. Mr. Six has also facilitated hundreds of meetings and events on Capitol Hill on behalf of communities facing religious freedom violations, has frequently served as a speaker at Congressional briefings, and has been invited to write or speak on international religious freedom issues by the U.S. State Department, the Foreign Service Institute, the Religious Freedom Institute, and many others.