



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Witness Biographies

Burma: Human Rights in the Aftermath of the Coup

Panel I



Melissa A. Brown is the Deputy Assistant Secretary with responsibility for the Office of Mainland Southeast Asia Affairs and the Office of Maritime Southeast Asia Affairs in the U.S. Department of State. From 2019 to 2021, Ms. Brown served as the Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., at the U.S. Mission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta, Indonesia, where she led an expansion of U.S. engagement with ASEAN, as well as efforts to mobilize ASEAN to resolve the political crisis in Burma. Previously, Ms. Brown was the Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs at U.S. Embassy Singapore from 2016 to 2019, where she also served as Acting Deputy Chief of Mission for one year and oversaw execution of the historic 2018 U.S.-DPRK Singapore Summit. A Southeast Asia expert with a strong trade policy background, Ms. Brown was previously assigned to Jakarta, Indonesia, as the Trade and Investment Unit Chief in U.S. Embassy Jakarta’s Economic Section. In Washington, she was also detailed to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and served on the U.S. State Department’s Vietnam Desk. She is a graduate of Georgetown University’s Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and grew up in New Jersey and Jakarta, Indonesia. She speaks Indonesian and French and has studied Khmer (Cambodian) and Hungarian.



Michael Schiffer is the Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). From 2012 to 2022, Mr. Schiffer was a senior advisor and counselor on the Democratic Staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. From 2009 to 2012, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs. Before joining the Department of Defense, he was a program officer at the Stanley Foundation, responsible for the Foundation's Asia programs as well as a range of other U.S.

national and global security issues and in 2004-2005 was a Council on Foreign Relations Hitachi International Affairs Fellow in Japan. From 1995 to 2004, he worked on the staff of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), including as her senior national security adviser and legislative director. Prior to that, he was director of international security programs at New York University's Center for War, Peace, and the News Media and was co-manager of the Poipu Bed and Breakfast Inn in Poipu, Kauai. Mr. Schiffer received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and graduate degrees from the London School of Economics and New York University.



Erin Barclay is the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor and the Coordinator for Global Democratic Renewal in the Office of the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Human Rights and Democracy in the U.S. Department of State. From September 6, 2022 to January 2, 2023 she was the Senior Bureau Official for the DRL Bureau. Prior to these positions, Ms. Barclay served as the Controller and Executive Director of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, the Acting

Assistant Secretary and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, and as the Founding Director of the Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the State Department. She is the recipient of the 2021 President Rank Award, the 2020 F. Allen “Tex” Harris Human Rights Diplomacy Award from the United Nations Association of the National Capitol Region, and numerous State Department performance awards. Prior to joining the Department, Ms. Barclay was the Executive Director of the Network of East West Women, a non-profit organization that promotes women’s human rights in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Ms. Barclay has been an adjunct professor of international women’s human rights at Georgetown University Law Center and George Mason University. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton and the University at Buffalo School of Law, and is an attorney admitted in New York State and the District of Columbia.



Dr. Beth Van Schaack is the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice (GCJ) at the U.S. Department of State. In this role, she advises the Secretary of State and other Department leadership on issues related to the prevention of and response to atrocity crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Ambassador Van Schaack served as Deputy to the Ambassador-at-Large in GCJ from 2012 to 2013. Prior to returning to public service in 2022, she was the Leah Kaplan Visiting Professor in Human Rights at Stanford Law School. Additionally, she directed Stanford’s International Human Rights & Conflict Resolution Clinic. Ambassador Van Schaack has

previously worked at Santa Clara University School of Law, where, in addition to teaching and writing on international human rights issues, she served as the Academic Adviser to the United States interagency delegation to the International Criminal Court Review Conference in Kampala,

Uganda. Earlier in her career, she was a practicing lawyer at Morrison & Foerster, LLP; the Center for Justice & Accountability, a human rights law firm; and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. She is a graduate of Stanford (BA), Yale (JD) and Leiden (PhD) Universities.

Panel II



Tom Andrews is the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar. A former member of the U.S. Congress from Maine, Mr. Andrews has run national advocacy organizations including Win Without War and United to End Genocide. Through his consulting practice, Andrews Strategic Services, he has worked with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs as well as parliamentarians, democracy advocates and human rights organizations in several countries including Cambodia, Indonesia, Algeria, Norway, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine and Yemen. Andrews served as General Secretary of “The Nobel Peace Laureate Campaign for Aung San Suu Kyi and the People of Burma” in 2001 and served as an advisor to the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma and the Euro-Burma Network. Andrews was Director of the Maine Studies Center at the University of Maine and served in the Maine House of Representatives and the Maine Senate.

Panel III



Aye Chan Mon is a medical doctor and native of Myanmar. She graduated from the University of Medicine, Mandalay in 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic. During university, she served as a member of student representatives with University of Medicine, Mandalay Student Union and conducted research on internship salaries while serving as a chairperson of the survey committee. After graduation, she joined the Ministry of Health as a civil assistant surgeon. Due to the political coup in Myanmar, she courageously joined the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) from the beginning. Despite difficulties and challenges, she helped in Tele-Healthcare services for two different townships providing online medical assistance while hiding within the country for her own security. She eventually sought safety in a border area with the help of the United States Embassy, where she continues fighting for the democratic movements of Myanmar and stands with the voiceless Myanmar people who are now suffering from the atrocities committed by Myanmar Military Junta.



Lucky Karim is a Rohingya Refugee, women's rights activist, humanitarian worker and a survivor of a Myanmar Junta-led genocide. in 2017, she was forced to flee her country (Burma) - Myanmar and she has worked for a number of humanitarian organizations while she, herself was a Refugee in Bangladesh Cox's Bazar camp. She spent 6 years in a Refugee camp and in December 2022 found a home to live life in the United States of America.