



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Civil and Political Rights in Uzbekistan and Central Asia: Implications for Post-2014 U.S. Foreign Policy

Panel I

Mr. Daniel Rosenblum, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central Asia, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State



Daniel Rosenblum is Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central Asia at the U.S. Department of State. Working within the State Department's Bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs, Mr. Rosenblum oversees U.S. policy towards and diplomatic relations with the five Central Asian states: Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

During 2008-2014, Mr. Rosenblum was Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia. He was responsible for ensuring the efficient allocation and spending of foreign aid budgets averaging over \$1 billion annually. His office provided strategic guidance and oversight for all U.S. foreign assistance to more than 30 countries in the former Soviet Union, the Western Balkans, and Central Europe. He and his team coordinated the efforts of more than a dozen U.S. government agencies supporting economic reform, the development of democratic institutions and rule of law, building the capacity of law-enforcement and other security-sector institutions, and relieving human suffering through humanitarian aid. He also served as the primary U.S. government liaison with other international donors, including the European Union and multilateral development banks.

During 1997-2008, Mr. Rosenblum held a variety of other positions in the Assistance Coordinator's office, including Deputy Coordinator, Director of the Eurasia Division, and Special Advisor for Economic Programs. He played the lead role in developing economic initiatives for several regions of Russia; served as the State Department liaison to 10 U.S.-backed investment funds operating in the region; and was instrumental in designing and implementing large packages of assistance for Ukraine, Georgia and the Kyrgyz Republic following internal upheavals, and for Kosovo following its declaration of independence.

Before coming to the State Department, Mr. Rosenblum spent six years as Senior Program Coordinator at the Free Trade Union Institute (FTUI) of the AFL-CIO. FTUI conducted educational programs and provided technical assistance to labor unions in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Mr. Rosenblum managed the operation of field offices in Moscow, Kyiv, and Warsaw. While working for FTUI, Mr. Rosenblum also served as a public spokesman for the AFL-CIO on the labor movement in the former Soviet Union, and social problems associated with the transition to a market economy.

During 1985-89, Mr. Rosenblum worked as a legislative assistant to Senator Carl Levin (D-Michigan), where he advised the Senator on foreign policy, human rights, judiciary, trade, and transportation issues. He was deeply involved in legislative efforts around the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, and helped the Senator promote the interests of his constituents in a wide range of areas, including the competitiveness of the American automotive industry, scrutinizing judicial nominations, protecting veterans' benefits, and defending international human rights.

Mr. Rosenblum has a BA in History from Yale University and an MA in Soviet Studies and International Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Mr. Robert Berschinski, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Department of State



Rob Berschinski currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. He is responsible for DRL's work in Europe and South and Central Asia.

Mr. Berschinski most recently served under Ambassador Samantha Power as Deputy Director of the U.S. Mission to the United Nation's (USUN) Washington Office. Prior to joining USUN, he served as Special Assistant to then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter, providing policy counsel on the Department of Defense's operations, management, and budget.

From 2010-2013, Mr. Berschinski served as the White House National Security Council's Director for Security and Human Rights Policy. He began civilian service as a Presidential Management Fellow in the office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and served as a defense fellow with the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee. He began his professional career as an active duty intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force, with operational assignments in Korea and Germany and deployments to Rwanda and Iraq, the latter as a member of the Joint Special Operations Command. He holds a B.A. and M.A. from Yale University, and is married to Sabrina Howell, an assistant professor at New York University's Stern School of Business.

Panel II

Ms. Allison Gill, Central Asia Expert, Amnesty International

Allison Gill is an independent human rights researcher and advocate with regional expertise in the countries of the former Soviet Union. She serves as a Central Asia expert for Amnesty International, working on issues such as torture and ill-treatment, religious freedom, arbitrary detention, due process, and national security.

Previously, Gill was the Russia director for Human Rights Watch, based in Moscow and the Uzbekistan researcher for Human Rights Watch, based in Tashkent.

Gill holds a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and a Juris Doctor from Northeastern University School of Law. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College.

Dr. Sanjar Umarov, Former Political Prisoner in Uzbekistan



Umarov is the founder of Sunshine Uzbekistan, a political coalition founded to promote human rights, the rule of law, and social and economic reforms. He earned a PhD from Tashkent Polytechnic Institute in 1982 and taught physics and engineering in Biskra, Algeria. After returning to Uzbekistan in 1988, he began a successful career in business that included the founding of Uzdunrobita, the first cellular telecommunications company in Ex-USSR, developed venture capital projects in the energy and transportation industries, and founded an international business school in Tashkent.

With the purpose to improve economic and human rights he founded the Sunshine Coalition with other intellectuals and businessmen. After less than one year he was arrested and charged with embezzlement and money laundering. Dr. Umarov was convicted in 2006 and sentenced to 14.5 years in prison. He was placed in solitary confinement for two years and regularly tortured and forced to take psychotropic drugs. In November 2009, Dr. Umarov received an unconditional amnesty due to his poor health and an international campaign for his release. The UN Human Rights Committee eventually found that his arrest and conviction was politically motivated and obliged Uzbekistan to restore justice and cover his losses.

Mr. Jeff Goldstein, Senior Policy Analyst, Eurasia, Open Society Foundations



Jeff Goldstein is the senior policy analyst for Eurasia at the Open Society Foundations. Based in Washington, D.C., he is responsible for providing advocacy support for the organization's programs in the former Soviet Union and Mongolia.

Prior to working at the Foundations, Goldstein was senior program manager for Central Asia and the Caucasus at Freedom House. In this capacity he sought to improve human rights through legislation and policy protections.

Goldstein, a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Foreign Service, served in the American embassies in Warsaw, Seoul, Moscow, and Tallinn, and in several positions in Washington D.C. Throughout his tenure, Goldstein has played a significant role in human rights promotion. He served as the U.S. Embassy liaison to the Solidarity Movement during the latter stages of Martial Law in Poland, and as the embassy officer responsible for working with the political opposition, student and labor movements in Korea during a period of rapid democratization.

Goldstein also has a background in conflict resolution, having served on U.S. teams negotiating with North Korea on nuclear and missile proliferation issues, and also as Deputy to the U.S. Special Envoy working to help resolve "frozen conflicts" in the Caucasus and Moldova. He received his MA in international relations from Yale University and a BA in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles.