



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Ending the Use of Child Soldiers

Friday, September 19, 2014

2:00 PM—4:00 PM

2360 Rayburn House Office Building

Panelist Biographies

Panel 1

Leila Zerrougui, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict



Ms. Leila Zerrougui was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict at the Under Secretary-General level in September 2012. In this capacity, she serves as a moral voice and independent advocate to build awareness and give prominence to the rights and protection of boys and girls affected by armed conflict.

Immediately prior to this appointment she was the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) where, since 2008, she spearheaded the Mission's efforts in strengthening the rule of law and protection of civilians.

As a legal expert in human rights and the administration of justice, Ms. Zerrougui has had a distinguished career in the strengthening of the rule of law and in championing strategies and actions for the protection of vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

A lawyer by training, Ms. Zerrougui was a member of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention under the United Nations Human Rights Council from 2001, and served as the Working Group's Chairperson-Rapporteur from 2003 until May 2008.

Prior to her international engagements, Ms. Zerrougui had a longstanding career in the Algerian judiciary and in 2000, was appointed to the Algerian Supreme Court. She served as a juvenile judge and judge of first instance from 1980 to 1986, and as an appeals court judge from 1986 to 1997. From 1998 to 2000, Ms. Zerrougui served as a legal adviser to the Cabinet of the Ministry of Justice and, from 2000 to 2008, as legal adviser to the cabinet of the President of the Republic. She also worked at various high level positions within the Algerian government and was member of the Algerian National Commission on the Reform of the Judiciary.

Ms. Zerrougui graduated from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (Algiers) in 1980. Since 1993, she has held various academic positions at law schools in Algeria, and was associate professor of the Ecole Supérieure de la Magistrature. (Algiers). She has published extensively on the administration of justice and human rights.

Ms. Zerrougui was born in 1956 in Souk-Ahras, Algeria.

Panel 2

Jesse Eaves, Senior Policy Advisor For Child Protection, World Vision



Jesse Eaves is the Senior Policy Advisor for Child Protection at World Vision in Washington DC. World Vision is a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organization that partners with children, their families, and communities, in nearly 100 countries to tackle the root causes of poverty and injustice. After receiving his Master's degree from Northwestern University, Eaves moved to Uganda. There he worked with war-affected communities, assisting survivors of human trafficking who had been used as child soldiers and sex slaves, and overseeing a community-development program that included counseling and education for war-affected youth.

Eaves currently focuses on child protection issues like child soldiers, exploitative labor, trafficking, and sexual exploitation. He works with World Vision programs around the world to ensure the protection of children is integrated into programming and national advocacy strategies.

Lisa Dougan, Director of International Programs and Policy Advisor for Invisible Children



Lisa Dougan is the Director of International Programs and Policy Advisor for Invisible Children, a nonprofit organization committed to seeking an end to the violence of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the recovery of communities affected by the conflict. Lisa oversees Invisible Children's programs in Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda, that focus on the protection and recovery of communities targeted by LRA violence, and the promotion of safe, peaceful defections by LRA combatants and captives. As Invisible Children's representative in Washington, D.C., Lisa also provides guidance on the organization's political advocacy efforts. Since 2008, she has developed and executed nation-wide advocacy campaigns that have played a critical role in advancing U.S. policy toward on the LRA crisis, including the passage of the LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act. Prior to her current role, Lisa served as Central Africa Programs Manager and Director of Civic Engagement for Invisible Children, and Director of Field Outreach for The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative, an LRA-focused research and advocacy organization based in Washington, DC.

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Aldo Civico, Assistant Professor, Rutgers University



For the past 35 years, Aldo Civico has served as a strategic adviser and conflict resolution facilitator to international institutions, governments, and non-governmental organizations in the United States, Latin America and Europe.

Since 2001, he has been involved in research and conflict resolution work in Colombia, where on the armed conflict Civico has been conducting challenging ethnography about the paramilitary, drug trafficking, child soldiers, and forced displacement. Between 2005 and 2008, he was one of the facilitators of cease-fire negotiations between the guerrilla of the *Ejercito de Liberación Nacional* and the

Government of Colombia. During that time, he also served as a conflict resolution adviser to the U.S. Ambassador to Colombia and the U.S. State Department Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. Since 2007, he has been serving as an adviser on strategic peacebuilding to Colombian rock star Juanes and his foundation *Mi Sangre*.

From 2007 to 2010 he served as a director of the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia University. He continues to be affiliated to the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity at The Earth Institute of Columbia University.

He is author of several books and articles on the Colombian conflict and is a columnist for the Colombian newspaper *El Espectador*. He is an assistant professor in anthropology at Rutgers University and serves of the board of the Peace is Loud Foundation.

Civico holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Columbia University and a *laurea* in Political Science from the University of Bologna, Italy.