



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Modern Day Slavery and What We Buy

Thursday, July 24, 2014

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

2255 Rayburn HOB

Panelist Biographies

Panel 1

Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons



In May 2009, Ambassador Luis CdeBaca was appointed by President Obama to coordinate U.S. government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery. He serves as Senior Advisor to the Secretary and directs the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which assesses global trends, provides training and technical assistance, and advocates for an end to modern slavery.

Mr. CdeBaca formerly served as Counsel to the House Committee on the Judiciary, where his portfolio for Chairman John Conyers, Jr. included national security, intelligence, immigration, civil rights, and modern slavery issues.

At the Justice Department, Mr. CdeBaca was one of the country's most-decorated federal prosecutors, leading the investigation and prosecution of cases involving money laundering, organized crime, alien smuggling, official misconduct, hate crimes, and human trafficking. He was honored with the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for his service as lead trial counsel in the largest slavery prosecution in U.S. history, which involved the enslavement of over 300 Vietnamese and Chinese workers in a garment factory in American Samoa. Additionally, he received the Department's highest litigation honor – the Attorney General's John Marshall Award – and the Director's Award from the Executive Office of United States Attorneys. He has received the leading honor given by the national trafficking victim service provider community, the Freedom Network's Paul & Sheila Wellstone Award, and has been named the Michigan Law School's Distinguished Latino Alumnus. He has convicted dozens of abusive pimps and employers, and helped to liberate hundreds of victims from servitude.

Mr. CdeBaca's family settled in New Mexico in the 1500s. He was raised on a cattle ranch in Huxley, Iowa, and attended Iowa State University. Mr. CdeBaca received his law degree from the Michigan Law School, where he was an editor of the Michigan Law Review.

Panel 2

Neha Misra, Senior Specialist, Migration and Human Trafficking, Solidarity Center



Neha Misra is the Senior Specialist for Migration and Human Trafficking at the Solidarity Center, an international worker rights NGO based in Washington, DC. Previously, Neha was the Deputy Country Director and Program Manager for the Solidarity Center's Counter Trafficking in Persons Project in Indonesia. She worked in Indonesia for over five years, starting with the Solidarity Center as the Director of its Democracy Project. Before her assignment in Indonesia, she worked in Bosnia and Herzegovina on post-war elections and democracy, and in the United States as a Senior Attorney-Advisor with the U.S. Department of Justice. While at DOJ, she also served as the

President of American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 3525. Neha is a member of the Board of Advisors for the Global Workers Justice Alliance. She has a Juris Doctor degree from the Washington College of Law, American University, where she focused her studies on international human rights law, and a Bachelor of Science degree in International Business Economics and Public Policy from Indiana University.

Dan Viederman, CEO, Verité



As CEO of Verité, Dan Viederman has worked closely with NGOs, governments, investors, and the biggest multinational brands in the world to improve working conditions and eliminate human rights violations across geographies and business sectors. For the impact that Verité has had on millions of workers around the world, Viederman was the winner of a 2007 Skoll Foundation Award for Social Entrepreneurship, and was named 2011 Social Entrepreneur of the Year in the United States by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. Dan has managed NGOs in developing countries since 1993 and worked with internationally-recognized institutions such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Catholic Relief Services. He has lived extensively in Asia and speaks Chinese. Dan is a graduate of Yale

University, the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, and Nanjing Teacher's University.

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.

Biram Dah Abeid, Founder, Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement in Mauritania



Biram Dah Abeid is the founder and president of the anti-slavery NGO Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement in Mauritania (IRA-Mauritania), and one of the leading human rights defenders in the West African country which has –by many measures- the highest incidence of slavery in the world. Over 140,000 people are currently enslaved in Mauritania, yet despite these statistics the institutionalization of slavery in Mauritania remains unabated. Mr. Bah Abeid, with IRA-Mauritania has publically denounced the ‘slave code’ and has directly led to the freeing of hundreds of slaves from their masters via non-violent means. Mr. Dah Abeid’s work on the front lines of the anti-

slavery movement in Mauritania has led to threats against him and his colleagues ranging from arbitrary detentions, to public harassment, to torture. Recently, in April 2012, Mr. Dah Abeid was arrested and detained for four months along with six other members of IRA. In 2014 Mr. Dah Abeid ran for the Presidency of Mauritania on an anti-slavery platform. In recognition of his work and courage, Biram Dan Abeid also received the 2013 United Nations Human Rights Prize, a prestigious award given every five years to exceptional individuals that promote and protect human rights. Mr. Dah Abeid shares the award with many other notable figures, including René Cassin, Taha Hussein, Benazir Bhutto, Jimmy Carter, Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela. Biram Dah Abeid was also the recipient of the 2013 Front Line Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk and the 2011 Human Rights Award from the German city Weimar. Biram Dah Abeid, himself descendant of a slave has demonstrated his resilience and endurance throughout years of persistent attacks by the government to silence his anti-slavery campaign.