



## **Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing**

### **Tibet 101**

**Tuesday, April 21st, 2015**

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

**215 HVC**

### **Panelists**



**Tenzin N. Tethong** is the Director of Tibetan Service, Radio Free Asia (RFA). During the course of over 40 years of public service, he served as the Chairman of Kashag and as the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in North America. Mr. Tethong has been an instrumental and integral part of varied key Tibet initiatives and organizations in exile; founding member of the Tibetan Youth Congress, editor of Tibetan review, and intimately connected with the establishment of the Tibet Fund, Tibet House, The Dalai Lama Foundation, and the International Campaign for Tibet. He was a Distinguished Fellow at Stanford University just before joining RFA.



**Lama Kyap Gazan** was born and raised in Amdo Rebgong. He is a graduate of Malho Teacher Training School (1982) and Qinghai Education College (1991) with an advanced degree in Tibetan language. He taught Tibetan language and legal studies at the Qinghai Provincial School of Politics and Law to both Tibetan and Chinese students. In 1993, Lama Kyab helped open a school in Siling, which focused on Tibetan language and culture. A month later, Kyab was arrested, taken to prison, interrogated, and tortured repeatedly. After 32 days in jail, Kyab was hospitalized for 2 ½ months. Due to the constant harassment from authorities after this, Kyab and his wife, carrying their baby daughter, escaped to India in 1994, where he worked as a lawyer for the exile Tibetan community until 2000. He now lives in the United States.



**Matteo Mecacci** joined the International Campaign for Tibet as President in December 2013. From 2008 to 2013, Matteo served in the Italian Parliament as a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies (on the Foreign Affairs Committee) after being voted in as Deputy for the Democratic Party. Matteo was also elected Chairperson of the Italian Parliamentary Intergroup for Tibet, a position he held continuously during his tenure in Parliament, and served for four years as an elected official of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly. In November 2009, Matteo organized the 5th World Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet in Rome, which hosted the Dalai Lama and established an International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet, of which he became co-chair in June 2010. Matteo has played an active role in promoting Tibetan democracy in exile, and was a member of the Tibetan Election Observation Mission in March 2011, when the Tibetan community in exile undertook elections for the leadership of the Central Tibetan Administration. Earlier in his career, from 2001 to 2008, while representing the Transnational Radical Party and the international non-governmental organization No Peace Without Justice at the UN in New York, Matteo coordinated various campaigns to foster democracy and protect human rights. Born in Florence, Italy, Matteo obtained a Doctor Juris degree in international law from the University of Firenze (Florence).

### **Moderator**



**Susan V. Lawrence** is a Specialist in Asian Affairs at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), a division of the Library of Congress that provides the U.S. Congress with authoritative, non-partisan research and analysis. She is the author of the CRS report, “The Tibetan Policy Act of 2002: Background and Implementation.” Ms. Lawrence joined CRS in 2010 after a career spent largely in journalism. She reported from Beijing for 11 years, serving as Senior China Correspondent for *The Far Eastern Economic Review*, China Correspondent and Acting Bureau Chief for *The Wall Street Journal*, and Beijing Bureau Chief for *U.S. News & World Report*. She also reported from Washington, D.C. for all three publications. Ms. Lawrence holds an A.M. in Regional Studies – East Asia from Harvard University and an A.B. *magna cum laude* in East Asian Studies from Harvard College. As an undergraduate, she also studied in the History Department of Peking University for two years as a Harvard-Yenching Institute Scholar. She visited Tibet for the first time in 1986.