



## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

### Witness Biographies

### Transnational Repression: Trends and Policy Approaches



**Yana Gorokhovskaia** is the Research Director for Strategy and Design at Freedom House. She leads the organization's work on transnational repression and is the author of several reports on topics like the targeting of exiled journalists and international students, host country responses to extraterritorial violence, and how transnational repression intersects with other forms of repression like restrictions on the freedom of movement. Before joining Freedom House, Yana was a postdoctoral researcher at Columbia University. She originally hails from Canada and holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of British Columbia.



**Lyudmyla Kozlovskya** is a human rights defender and President of the Open Dialogue Foundation (ODF). ODF is known for supporting Ukraine during the Maidan revolution, delivering humanitarian aid in response to Russian aggression in 2014 and 2022, and advocating for political prisoners across the post-Soviet region while pushing for G7 sanctions against Russia and its allies. As of April 2024, ODF has delivered €9.59 million worth of aid. Lyudmyla is known for initiating the reform of INTERPOL to fight its misuse as a tool of political prosecution worldwide. ODF's human rights work has faced hostility from authoritarian regimes, including Kazakhstan, Russia, and previously Poland and Moldova. In 2018, Lyudmyla was declared a national security threat by Polish and Moldovan governments, leading to her Schengen area ban. Other EU Member States and Switzerland rejected this ban as politically motivated, and following a court order, it was ultimately lifted in February 2024 as baseless. However, false accusations created a permanent cloud of suspicion in compliance databases, leading to systematic financial exclusion from banks despite legal victories. Russia's Prosecutor General's Office has formally designated ODF as an "undesirable organisation," claiming it "poses a threat to constitutional order and security" for humanitarian aid to Ukraine and sanctions evasion investigations. The Russian regime specifically targets Kozlovskya and her family over \$520,000 in Ukraine donations since 2013. Despite transnational persecution and banking exclusion, ODF continues operating using Bitcoin and stablecoins. As leader of the

Building True Change Coalition, Lyudmyla advocates for addressing financial exclusion while promoting crypto-assets' role in humanitarian delivery.



**Ahmad Noorani** is an investigative journalist and Editor of FactFocus. He is a graduate of Columbia University's School of Journalism and holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Pakistan. Noorani has reported extensively on corruption and misconduct by military officials and the institutional failures of the Pakistan Army in its role as a governmental defense authority. He has scrutinized the practices of every major political party in Pakistan across multiple administrations. Noorani covers topics like military corruption and the misuse of blasphemy laws that are often censored or ignored in Pakistan's media landscape. He founded FactFocus, a digital platform dedicated to investigative journalism after he was dismissed from his job following pressure from the Pakistan Army.



**Ria Chakrabarty** is the Senior Policy Director at Hindus for Human Rights, where she leads HfHR's advocacy with government actors and the United Nations. She has led the organization's human rights campaigns in support of Indian democracy, the release of political prisoners, and minority rights in South Asia. Throughout her career, Ria has focused on understanding the effects of US foreign policy and political violence on communities worldwide. Ria has also worked in various positions in academia, the United States Senate and the World Health Organization. Ria's writing has appeared in the Indian Express, Foreign Policy Magazine, Just Security, The Hindu, and The Diplomat, among others.



**Joey Siu** is a Washington, D.C.-based human rights advocate and Spokesperson of Amnesty International Hong Kong Overseas. As a student leader, she played a crucial role during the 2019 pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, organizing both on-campus and city-wide demonstrations. She also serves on the Executive Council of the World Liberty Congress, a global coalition of pro-democracy advocates. In addition to her grassroots organizing and efforts to build a diaspora community and cross-movement networks, she actively engages in policy advocacy, frequently testifying before the U.S. Congress, the Canadian Parliament, and other policy-making bodies. In December 2023, the Hong Kong authorities issued an international arrest warrant for her, offering a bounty of HKD 1 million due to her activism in exile.



**Paulo Figueiredo** is a Brazilian journalist and economist based in Florida. He is the grandson of the 30th President of the Republic of Brazil, João Figueiredo. He is known for his current work as host of the Paulo Figueiredo Show, and earlier work on the Brazilian JP News TV channel and for being a co-host of the political show Os Pingos nos Is ("The dots on the Is"). Figueiredo reaches millions of people on his social media, and in the United States, he has been interviewed and participated in various leading news programs and by leading journalists, commenting on Latin American affairs on television networks and podcasts. In December 2022, the Supreme Federal Court of Brazil decided to block all of his social media accounts in Brazil, freeze all of his financial assets, impose a fine each time he spoke about topics considered "anti-democratic," and cancel his passport.