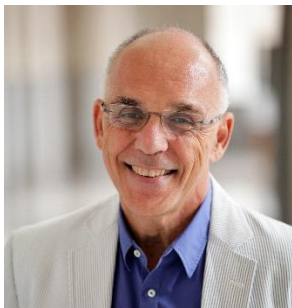




Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Witness Biographies

Can Turkey Find Its Way Back to Freedom? Authoritarian Consolidation versus the Defense of Turkish Democracy



Henri J. Barkey is the Adjunct Senior Fellow for Middle East Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington DC. 2018- and Bernard L. and Bertha F. Cohen Chair Professor in International Relations at Lehigh University (emeritus). He served on the U.S. State Department Policy Planning Staff (1998-2000) and was the Director of Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2015-2017). He is the author of “The End of Erdogan: How the Turkish Leader Has Engineered His Own Undoing,” *Foreign Affairs*, May 28, 2025, “Erdogan the Survivor: Washington Needs a New Approach to Turkey’s Improviser in Chief,” *Foreign Affairs*, September-October 2023, “The Kurdish Awakening: Unity, Betrayal, and the Future of the Middle East,” *Foreign Affairs*, March-April 2019, [Why Is Turkey Accusing Me of Plotting a Coup?](#) New York Times, September 1, 2016.



Serkan Golge is a Turkish-American scientist, U.S. citizen, husband, father, and former political prisoner in Turkey. He is a Senior Research Scientist affiliated with NASA Johnson Space Center (Contractor), but he submits this testimony solely in his personal capacity. He was arrested in 2016 in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt as part of the post-coup witch hunt the Turkish government launched against people accused of association with the Gulen movement. He spent nearly three years in prison, while his wife and children were prevented from returning to their home in the United States. He was eventually released from prison through sustained efforts by the U.S. government. Serkan Golge seeks to be a voice for the hundreds of thousands of people who remain imprisoned or punished not for any proven crime, but because they lived ordinary lives that the Turkish government later redefined as evidence of terrorism.



Michael Rubin is director of policy analysis at the Middle East Forum and the editor of its daily *Middle East Forum Observer*. For over 22 years, he was a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, and he previously served as a senior lecturer at the Naval Postgraduate School, where he spent more than a year at sea onboard U.S. aircraft carriers, amphibious assault vessels, destroyers, and cruisers teaching courses related to U.S. national security in the Middle East and Africa. He also regularly taught courses regarding terrorism for U.S. Navy SEALs and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Rubin received a B.S. degree in biology from Yale University in 1994 and a Ph.D. in history from the same institution in 1999. He has testified before the U.S. Congress more than two dozen times and is the author of six books, several dozen book chapters, and more than three thousand published opinion essays and articles. Rubin has extensive experience on the ground in the Middle East, both central and eastern Africa, and South Asia.



Andrew O'Donohue, Ph.D., is the Carl J. Friedrich Fellow at Harvard University, a Fellow at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute, and a Nonresident Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Dr. O'Donohue is an expert on law and courts, democracy and authoritarianism, and politics in Turkey and Israel. His research has been published in *The Journal of Democracy*, *The Middle East Journal*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Nexus*. Dr. O'Donohue has also written for *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Washington Post*. His work has been cited 850+ times on Google Scholar, in *The New York Times*, and before the U.S. Supreme Court. Dr. O'Donohue received his Ph.D. in Government from Harvard University.