



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

World Bank Lending and Human Rights

Panelist Bios

Barney Frank, Former Member of Congress & Chair of House Financial Services Committee



First elected to Congress in 1980, Barney Frank is known as a superb legislator and a pragmatic politician whose sharp intellect and sense of humor has made him one of the most influential and colorful figures in Washington.

While in Congress, Frank worked to adjust America's spending priorities to reduce the deficit, provide less funding for the military and more for important quality of life needs at home. In particular, he focused on providing aid to local communities, and to building and preserving affordable rental housing for low income people.

He has also been a leader in the fight against discrimination of various sorts. He championed the interests of the poor, the underprivileged and the vulnerable, winning re-election 12 times by wide margins.

As chair of the House Financial Services Committee from 2007 to 2011, Frank was instrumental in crafting a compromise bill to stem the tide of home mortgage foreclosures, as well as the subsequent \$550 billion rescue plan. He worked to adopt a sweeping set of financial regulations aimed at preventing a recurrence of this crisis, and was a key author of the [Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act](#), the regulatory overhaul signed into law in July 2010. He also led the passage of the [Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights](#) Act, a measure that drew praise from editorial boards and consumer advocates.

In 1987, Frank became the first member of Congress to voluntarily come out as openly gay, and in 2012 he married his longtime partner, becoming the nation's first congressman in a same-sex marriage while in office.

After sixteen terms in Congress, Frank's legacy as a champion of civil rights and financial reform, as well as his ability to simplify any issue at hand in a clever and witty way, will be

sorely missed. According to the *Wall Street Journal*: “Mr. Frank's combative liberalism and quick wit make him a standout in a Capitol filled with politicians dependent on talking points and polls, a trait alluded to by Mr. Obama who said in a written statement that, "The House of Representatives will not be the same without him."

Arvind Ganesan, Director for Business and Human Rights, Human Rights Watch



Arvind Ganesan, director of Human Rights Watch's Business and Human Rights Division, is involved in research, advocacy, and policy development for Human Rights Watch on issues involving business and human rights, including the extractive industries; freedom of expression and information through the internet; labor rights; trade; corruption; sanctions; and advancing international human rights standards on business.

Ganesan has developed industry standards to ensure companies and other institutions respect human rights. He is a founder of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights for the oil, gas, and mining industries and is a founding member of the Global Network Initiative for the internet and telecommunications industries. He has also helped to develop standards for international financial institutions such as the World Bank, and regularly engages governments in an effort to develop mandatory rules or strengthen existing standards, such as the Kimberley Process.

Ganesan's work has covered countries such as Angola, Azerbaijan, Burma, China, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, India, Indonesia, and Nigeria. He has written numerous reports on business and human rights issues for Human Rights Watch. He is widely cited in media on issues related to human rights and business.

Before joining Human Rights Watch, Ganesan worked as a medical researcher. He attended the University of Oklahoma.

Nadejda Ataeva, President, Association for Human Rights in Central Asia



Nadejda Ataeva, a native of Uzbekistan, is the founder and President of the Association for Human Rights in Central Asia (AHRCA). Based in Le Mans, France, AHRCA works to protect the rights of individuals in Uzbekistan through national and international law; and monitors compliance of Central Asian governments with international human rights agreements.

In the past, Ataeva worked with the human rights organisation “Mothers Against Capital Punishment and Torture,” and, as a journalist, she contributed to several publications, including Russian Information Agency “Interfax”, “Pravda Vostoka,” “Tashkentskaya Pravda,” “Pioneer

Vostoka,” and “Traktoristroitel,” and "Syrdarinskaya Pravda.” She also led a project to create the museum of War Heroes dedicated to the victims of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-45 at the children’s club "Poisk" in Gulistan, Uzbekistan.

Ataeva holds a degree in Journalism from the Tashkent State University, Uzbekistan, and a Degree in Jurisprudence from the Moscow Humanitarian-Economic Institute. She currently resides in France as a political asylee.

Delphine Djiraibe, Human Rights Attorney, Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights



Delphine Djiraibe is a Chadian attorney, human rights and environmental activist and co-founder of the Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights. She has been working on the Chad-Cameroon Oil & Pipeline Project since its inception and has been advocating for social, economic, and environmental rights in Chad and for World Bank accountability and corporate responsibility in the disbursement of oil revenues. In 2004, she received the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award for her work.

Felix Valentine, Coordinator, Land Defense Program, Fraternal Black Organization of Honduras

Felix Valentine coordinates the land defense program of the Fraternal Black Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH). OFRANEH is the federation of Honduran Afro indigenous Garifuna communities. OFRANEH made a successful and precedent setting complaint to the Inspection Panel in 2005 challenging the negative impact of a World Bank land titling program on indigenous rights. This May, OFRANEH will present two precedent-setting indigenous land rights cases to the Inter American Court, and has numerous cases currently under examination by the Commission on Human Rights. Further, OFRANEH communities are negatively impacted by the operations of the Dinant Corporation which has received two IFC loans.