



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Witness Biographies

Discrimination and Persecution Against Muslims Worldwide

Panel I



Rashad Hussain is the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom at the U.S. Department of State. Ambassador Hussain serves as principal advisor to the Secretary and advisor to the President on religious freedom conditions and policy. Previously, Ambassador Hussain was the Director at the National Security Council's Partnerships and Global Engagement Directorate. From 2015 to 2021, he served as Senior Counsel at the Department of Justice's National Security Division. Ambassador Hussain has also previously served as the Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the U.S. Special Envoy for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, as Deputy Associate White House Counsel, and has taught as adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center and the Georgetown School of Foreign Service. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School, where he served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal and Master's degrees in Public Administration and Arabic and Islamic Studies from Harvard University. Hussain holds Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Philosophy from UNC-Chapel Hill.



Dr. Beth Van Schaack is the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice (GCJ) at the U.S. Department of State. In this role, she advises the Secretary of State and other Department leadership on issues related to the prevention of and response to atrocity crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Ambassador Van Schaack served as Deputy to the Ambassador-at-Large in GCJ from 2012 to 2013. Prior to returning to public service in 2022, she was the Leah Kaplan Visiting Professor in Human Rights at Stanford Law School. Additionally, she directed Stanford's International Human Rights & Conflict Resolution Clinic. Ambassador Van Schaack has previously worked at Santa Clara University School of Law, where, in addition to teaching and writing on international human rights issues, she served as the Academic Adviser to the United States interagency delegation to the International Criminal Court Review Conference in Kampala, Uganda. Earlier in her career, she was a practicing lawyer at Morrison & Foerster,

LLP; the Center for Justice & Accountability, a human rights law firm; and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. She is a graduate of Stanford (BA), Yale (JD) and Leiden (PhD) Universities.

Panel II



Nury Turkel is the Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Turkel is a Uyghur-American lawyer, foreign policy expert, and human rights advocate. In September 2020, Turkel was named one of the *TIME* 100 Most Influential People in the World; and in May 2021, he was named on *Fortune's* List of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders. He is a Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. In June 2021, the Notre Dame Law School Religious Liberty Initiative honored Nury with the first Notre Dame Prize for Religious Liberty. He has previously testified before Congress, most recently before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in April 2021, at a hearing on “the Atrocities Against Uyghurs and Other Minorities in Xinjiang”. He serves as the Chairman of the Board for the Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP), which he co-founded in 2003. Previously, has served as the president of the Uyghur American Association and as an adviser to multiple presidents of the World Uyghur Congress (WUC). Turkel received an M.A. in International Relations and a J.D. from the American University in Washington, DC.