



## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

### Seeking Justice for Atrocities:

### How the International Criminal Court Could Advance Accountability in Iraq and Syria

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

2261 Rayburn House Office Building

### Panelists



**Minerva Tavarez Mirabal**, better known as Minou, is a Member of the National Congress of the Dominican Republic and the President of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA). She previously served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, and has worked as a researcher and professor. She founded Opción Democrática (Democratic Choice), a progressive political party, and is the current presidential candidate of Democratic Choice, Alliance for Democracy, and New Democracy. She holds a degree in philology and postgraduate studies from the University of Havana, Cuba and a Master's degree in Senior Public Management from the University Research Institute Ortega y Gasset

in Spain. She is the daughter of lawyers Manolo Tavarez Justo and Minerva Mirabal Reyes, founders of the underground Dominican Republic revolutionary movement June 14, and the mother of two children. She is the author of *The Road I Bring with Me*, a compilation of her speeches and articles, and *Tomorrow I Will Write You Again*, a collection of the letters of her parents, who were both victims of summary executions during the Trujillo dictatorship, alongside the other two Mirabal Sisters. Minou has been one of the most active proponents and advocates for the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25th November), the day the three Mirabal sisters were slaughtered in a brutal attack by Trujillo's death squad.



**Jane Stromseth** is a Professor of Law at Georgetown University. Professor Stromseth has served in government as Director for Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs at the National Security Council, as an Attorney-Adviser in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the State Department, and, most recently, as Deputy to the Ambassador-at-Large and Acting Director of the Office of Global Criminal Justice at the State Department. She has authored or co-authored several books and numerous articles on constitutional war powers, humanitarian intervention, post-conflict justice and rule of law building. Prior to joining Georgetown, she clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer of the U.S. District Court for D.C. She is a

member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Counsellor of the American Society of International Law. She received her doctorate in International Relations at Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar, and her law degree at Yale, where she was a student director of the Lowenstein Human Rights Project.



**James Stewart** is the Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. He took up his duties in March 2013, after retiring from the Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where he served for over 30 years as a prosecuting counsel handling criminal trials and appeals. His practice included appearances before the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Supreme Court of Canada, arguing matters in both English and French. He took unpaid leaves of absence from his work as prosecuting counsel in Toronto to serve with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). As Senior Trial Attorney in 1997-8, he led the ICTR Office of the Prosecutor trial team that prosecuted the first cases before the ICTR Trial Chambers. He served at ICTY from 1999-2001 as the first Chief of Prosecutions. He returned to Arusha and the ICTR in 2004-7 as Senior Appeals Counsel and then Chief of the Appeals and Legal Advisory Division.

### **Moderator**



**Susana SáCouto** is Professorial Lecturer-in-Residence at American University Washington College of Law (WCL), the Director of WCL's the War Crimes Research Office, and Director of WCL's Summer Law Program in The Hague. Prior to joining WCL, she directed the Legal Services Program at Women Empowered Against Violence and clerked for the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the Center for Human Rights Legal Action in Guatemala. She has also served as co-chair of the Women's International Law Interest Group of the American Society for International Law and was awarded The Women's Law Center Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award for significant contributions to women's rights.