



## **Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing**

*In Conjunction with Act4Accountability, Amnesty International USA, Church of the Brethren,  
and the Congressional African Staff Association*

### **Nigeria after the Chibok Abductions: An Update on Human Rights and Governance**

**Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Capitol Visitor Center – SVC 215**

#### **Panelists**



**Omolola “Lola” Adele-Oso** is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Act4Accountability, a non-profit organization committed to building a culture of accountability among Africans and the diaspora through civic engagement. She is an advocate, architect, community organizer, and organization development practitioner. Lola advocates for addressing the social inequities and disparities affecting vulnerable populations in the U.S., especially communities of color. She previously served as the community organizer for the National AIDS Housing Coalition, the co-chair of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership Housing Group, and Senior Program Manager at Taproot Foundation. Lola holds a Bachelor’s of Architecture from Howard University and a Master of Science in Organization Development from American University. She is a Starting Bloc Fellow and recipient of the 2013 Hal Kellner Award for Social Justice.



**Nathan Hosler** is the Director of the Church of the Brethren’s Office of Public Witness based in Washington, DC, where he works on a range of policy and peacebuilding issues. Previously he worked with the Peace Programme of Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) and taught peacebuilding practice and theology at Kulp Bible College in Adamawa State, Nigeria for two years (2009-2011). The Church of the Brethren has been working in northeastern Nigeria since the 1920s. Nathan traveled to northern Adamawa and southern Borno states which have been heavily affected by Boko Haram earlier this year. He holds a Master’s degree in International Relations and is writing a PhD dissertation in Theological Ethics focusing on peace.



**Madeline Rose** is the Senior Policy Advisor for Mercy Corps, a global humanitarian and development organization headquartered in Portland, OR. In this capacity, Madeline leads Mercy Corps' policy and advocacy initiatives on Sub-Saharan Africa; peace and conflict policy, including conflict reduction, countering/preventing violent extremism, and atrocity prevention; civilian protection; positive youth development; and governance and fragile states. Prior to Mercy Corps, Madeline was the lead lobbyist for the Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict program at the Friends Committee on National Legislation. She has worked in the U.S. Congress, at the United Nations, with community-based organizations in Zimbabwe and South Africa, and in the technology community in

the Silicon Valley. Madeline is a New Leaders Fellow with the Center for Progressive Leadership, a Steering Committee Member for the Harvard Law School Counter-Terrorism and Humanitarian Engagement project, and a Board Member for Voices for Sudan Inc. She has testified before the U.S. Congress, and is an Organizing & Advocacy Trainer with Wellstone Action.



**Lauren Ploch Blanchard** is a Specialist in African Affairs with the Congressional Research Service, where she provides nonpartisan analysis on African political, military and diplomatic affairs, and on U.S. policy toward the region, to Members of Congress and their staff. Ms. Blanchard's portfolio focuses on East Africa and Nigeria, and on security issues and U.S. military engagement on the continent. She has written extensively on these topics and has testified before Congress on terrorist threats in the region, U.S. security assistance, and on the U.S. military's Africa Command. She also speaks regularly at academic institutions and international policy fora in the United States and abroad. Prior to joining CRS, Ms. Blanchard managed governance

programs in East and Southern Africa. Previously, Ms. Blanchard served as Legislative Assistant in the United States Senate. She holds a master's degree in National Security Studies from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Classical Studies, with a minor in African Studies, from the University of Florida.

### Moderator



**Carl Levan** is Associate Professor in the School of International Service at American University in Washington, D.C. He is the author of *Dictators and Democracy in African Development: the Political Economy of Good Governance in Nigeria* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), and co-editor of *African State Governance: Subnational Politics and National Power* (Palgrave 2015). His essay in the *American Political Science Review* with Todd Eisenstadt and Tofiqh Maboudi demonstrates the lasting positive effects of participatory constitution-making on democracy around the world since 1974. Other co-authored articles explore property rights and migration in Abuja (with Josiah Olubowale, in *African Affairs*, 2014) and the economic

consequences of cabinet size (with Assen Assenov, in *Government and Opposition*, 2015). His other research articles have appeared in *Governance*, *Africa Today*, *Democratization*, and *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*. His 2013 article on Boko Haram remains one of the most widely read essays on the subject. Prior to receiving his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California—San Diego, he worked as a legislative director for U.S. Representative John Conyers, lectured at the University of Ibadan, and worked as a technical advisor to Nigeria's National Assembly. He publishes the blog Development4Security at carllevan.com and tweets @Dev4Security.