



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Nigeria: Elections and Human Rights

Panel



John Tomaszewski is the International Republican Institute's Regional Director for Africa. In this capacity, he provides overall strategic direction and management for IRI's multi-million-dollar project portfolio in Sub-Saharan Africa. He currently oversees active IRI democracy and governance projects in seventeen countries across the subcontinent as well as regional initiatives in The Sahel, Great Lakes and Southern Africa. He has extensive experience implementing a range of projects

throughout Africa focused on legislative and political party strengthening, public opinion research, youth and gender inclusion, civil society capacity building, campaign and public affairs management, and subnational governance among others. Before joining IRI, Tomaszewski worked for the Crisis and Litigation Practice at LEVICK Strategic Communications in Washington, DC.



Oge Onubogu is Senior Program Officer for Africa Programs at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) where she leads programming in Nigeria. In this position, she provides leadership, strategic management, and oversees the design and implementation of projects to promote inclusion and community security by partnering with policymakers, civic leaders, and organizations in Nigeria and the broader Lake Chad Basin area. Oge's thematic focus is on governance and civil society development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to joining USIP, she managed governance, citizen engagement, and election observation programs in Nigeria and across Southern Africa with the

National Democratic Institute. Before that, she worked as program officer for West Africa at the National Endowment for Democracy where for several years, she oversaw democratic governance projects and managed a multi-million dollar grants portfolio to civil society organizations in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Cameroon.



Kristina Arriaga has worked on the defense of freedom of religion or belief in the United States and internationally for over 20 years as Advisor to the United States delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, an appointee to the Civil Rights Commission, and as the Executive Director of a U.S.-based public interest law firm that defends all religious traditions. In 2016, she was appointed by the Speaker of the House Paul Ryan to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). In 2017 and 2018 she was elected Vice Chairwoman of the Commission. Since her appointment to USCIRF, Arriaga has met with the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar in Cairo, the Vice Minister of Islam in Riyadh, and the Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul, among many other foreign

government officials, religious leaders, and human rights advocates. She has also testified before the U.S. Congress.

Moderator



Jamie Staley is a Senior Professional Staff Member working on the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for Republican Co-Chair, Congressman Randy Hultgren. He organizes hearings and briefings for the Co-Chair on international human rights issues and helps Members of Congress to incorporate human rights into their foreign policy objectives. Prior to working on the Commission, he worked with Arab immigrant families in Boston and on legal reform programs in Uganda. He has an M.A. in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School.