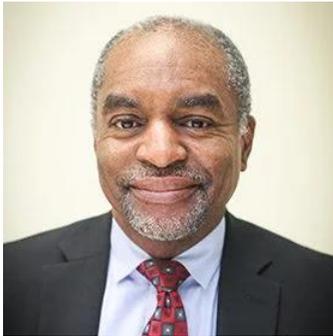




## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

### Rwanda: Human Rights and Political Prisoners

#### Panel



regional advocacy priorities.

**Adotei Akwei** is Deputy Director for Advocacy and Government Relations at Amnesty International USA. He rejoined AIUSA in September 2010 after serving as the Senior Policy Advisor for CARE USA. In this capacity, Adotei helped develop and implement advocacy on CARE USA's priority issues towards the US government. Prior to joining the Government Relations team in Washington DC, he served as the Regional Advocacy Advisor for CARE's Asia Regional Management Unit. As an RAA, Adotei supported CARE Country Offices in Asia in the development and implementation of national level advocacy strategies as well as with



regional advocacy priorities.

**Kate Barth** is the Legal Director for Freedom Now, a non-partisan organization that works to free prisoners of conscience around the world through targeted legal, political and public relations advocacy. At Freedom Now, she represents political prisoners before international human rights courts and leads the organization's US-based government and UN advocacy on her clients' behalf. Prior to joining Freedom Now, she worked with Lawyers Collective in New Delhi, India where she assisted with the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health and with Allen & Overy LLP in private practice. Kate holds a B.A. *magna cum laude* from Brown University, an MSC in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and a J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Follow her on Twitter at @ksbarth.

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**Veronica Shandari** is the eldest child of Frank Rusagara, a former Brigadier General in the Rwandan army, who is currently being held as a prisoner of conscience in Rwanda. Mr. Rusagara is serving a 20-year-sentence on charges of “spreading rumors” and “tarnishing the image of the country and government” and is believed to have been targeted for detention on account of private remarks he allegedly made which were critical of the government and on account of his familial relationship with David Himbara, a prominent Rwandan dissident. Veronica is one of five siblings mourning their father’s unjust imprisonment. She works in the United Kingdom as a support worker helping vulnerable persons with their day to day life.

### **Moderator**



**Alexis Arieff** is a Specialist in African Affairs at the Congressional Research Service, where she analyzes policy issues regarding North, West, and Central Africa for Members of Congress and their staff. In 2015, Alexis was detailed to the State Department as a Washington-based policy advisor to the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations. She previously completed a detail as a regional director for West Africa in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and she served as an international election observer in Guinea in 2010 and in Tunisia in 2011 and 2014. Before joining CRS full time in 2009 as a Presidential Management Fellow, Alexis worked as a researcher on Africa at the Committee to Protect Journalists; as a research fellow at the International Crisis Group’s West Africa field office in Dakar, Senegal; and as a contributing writer for Freedom House. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Guinea, based in Conakry, in 2008-2009.