



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Nigeria: Conflict in the Middle Belt

Panel I



EJ Hogendoorn (hoag-en-dorn) is the Africa Deputy Program Director for the International Crisis Group. He is based in Washington, DC, and travels often to the region. EJ frequently briefs the media, international organizations and government representatives on African issues. Previously Crisis Group's Horn of Africa project director, EJ was a former Arms Expert with the United Nations Panel of Experts on Somalia (2002-2003) and Sudan (2005-2006). Prior to that, he worked as a researcher for the Human Rights Watch Arms Division and with Amnesty International USA. He has a PhD in Public Affairs (Security Studies), Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University.



Oge (oh-gay) Onubogu (own-oo-boh-goo) is a senior program officer for Africa in the Middle East & Africa Center at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). Her focus is on civil society development and governance in post-conflict and transitional societies, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa. Currently, she oversees the design and implementation of programs in Nigeria in coordination with USIP's community of experts.

Prior to joining USIP in 2015, she was program manager for Southern Africa with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) where she managed political party strengthening, elections and civic engagement programs in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Madagascar and Mozambique. She also served with NDI in Nigeria, where she worked with civil society and government officials to support legislative strengthening and citizen participation activities.

Ms. Onubogu has designed and implemented civil society development programs in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Cameroon with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). She holds a Master's degree in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University and Bachelor's degree in International and Area Studies from the University of Oklahoma.



Olubukola (oh-loo-boo-coal-uh) Ademola (ah-dem-oh-luh) – Adelehin (ah-dell-eh-heen) is a Conflict Analyst at Search for Common Ground, the world's largest dedicated peacebuilding organization. She is based in Abuja, Nigeria. Olubukola has over eleven years professional experience in peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Nigeria and a number of West Africa countries. She is experienced in using early warning system for conflict prevention and mitigation, enhancing the role of women in peacebuilding, mitigating agro-pastoralist conflict, conducting thematic conflict analyses, mitigating violence in electoral processes, as well as facilitating dialogue and

collaboration among government actors, civil society organizations, security agencies, academia and communities for improved management of issues that could lead to violent conflict. Prior to her work with Search for Common Ground, she served as Program Manager for the West Africa Network of Peacebuilding (WANEP) in Nigeria. Olubukola holds a Masters Degree in Peace and Conflict Studies and certificates in professional peacebuilding and prevention.



Elijah M. Brown, Ph.D. is the Executive Vice President of the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, a Christian human rights organization working to empower a global movement to advance religious freedom as a universal right through advocacy, capacity building and technology. Dr. Brown received his Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh with a dissertation that focused on the role of the church in the development of the Sudan-South Sudan peace process. He previously served as an Associate Professor of Religion at East Texas Baptist University where he was also a Faculty-in-Residence and the founding Director of the Freedom Center, one of the only centers at a

Baptist university in the United States uniquely dedicated to advancing international religious freedom. Dr. Brown has conducted research in refugee and displacement camps in Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. In June 2016, Dr. Brown and the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative published a new 86-page in-depth report entitled, “Nigeria: Fractured and Forgotten” that highlights the ongoing violations of religious freedom in what was called by the United Nations as “the world’s most neglected humanitarian crisis.” Dr. Brown resides in Falls Church, Virginia with his wife Amy of fifteen years and their three children.