



House Foreign Affairs Committee Event Co-hosted by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

Biographies

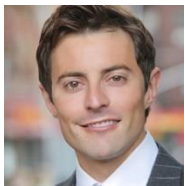
The Dissident: A Conversation on Human Rights and Accountability



Omar Abdulaziz is a Saudi political satirist and activist exiled in Canada. His activism has raised awareness about ongoing repression and human rights abuses in the kingdom where freedom of expression is nonexistent and political satire is a crime. The Saudi regime has tried to silence his activism by intimidating his family, offering bribes, and making him a target of surveillance. He was a friend of Jamal Khashoggi and the two worked together before Jamal's murder. Omar received the Human Rights Foundation's 2020 Vaclav Havel Prize for Creative Dissent.



Bryan Fogel is an Academy Award-winning film director, producer, author, and playwright. His 2017 documentary *Icarus*, an indexical report on the truth surrounding doping in sports, won Best Documentary Feature at the 90th Academy Awards. Bryan directed *The Dissident*, a documentary feature about the murder of *Washington Post* columnist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.



Thor Halvorsen founded the Human Rights Foundation (HRF) in the spring of 2005. Thor began advocating for human rights in 1989 in London by organizing opposition to South African apartheid while in school. He is the president of HRF and founder of its annual global human rights conference series, the Oslo Freedom Forum. Halvorsen has produced several films on freedom and human rights, including *The Dissident*.

Moderator



Alex Marquardt is CNN's Senior National Security Correspondent based in the Washington bureau. Marquardt spent most of the past decade as an award-winning foreign correspondent for ABC News based in Moscow, Jerusalem, Beirut and London. During that time, he was on the front lines of the wars and uprisings in the Middle East and reported on the refugee and migrant crisis and the wave of terror attacks across Europe. Marquardt was among the first correspondents in Cairo as the revolution in Egypt exploded. He made many trips into Syria to report on the war from both the regime and rebel sides, was on the ground in Gaza in 2012 and 2014 during the wars with Israel, and traveled across Ukraine as Russia's military invaded.