



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Witness Biographies

Enforced Disappearance in Latin America: Taking Stock

Panel I



Federico Andreu Guzmán is an expert on international human rights who until recently served as the high-level advisor on enforced disappearance with Colombia's Unit for the Search of Disappeared Persons (UPBD). His previous positions include Deputy Director of litigation and legal protection at the Colombian Commission of Jurists, General Counsel of the International Commission of Jurists (2000–2009), Legal Adviser for Americas and Asian Regions Programs of the International Secretariat of Amnesty International (1997–2000), and Deputy Secretary General for Latin America at the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). Mr. Andreu has served as a consultant for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and was a member of the UN Human Rights Mission in Rwanda and the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti.



Leonor Arteaga Rubio heads the program on Impunity and Grave Human Rights Violations at the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF) in Washington, D.C. In February 2018, Ms. Arteaga was appointed by the government of El Salvador as a Commissioner for the National Commission for the Search of Persons Disappeared during the armed conflict in El Salvador (CONABÚSQUEDA), an ad-honorem position. At DPLF, Leonor leads research, advocacy and monitoring initiatives on truth and justice issues on past armed conflicts and current state violence in Latin America. She has also served as Deputy Ombudsman for Children and Youth at the Ombudsman's Office in El Salvador and has worked with various human rights organizations and victim's groups on litigation, both at the national and international level.



Grace Mahogany Fernández Morán is a member of BÚSCAME and the Citizen's Council of the National Search System in Mexico, and the sister of Dan Jeremeel Fernández who was forcibly disappeared in Coahuila state in 2008. Their family was among those who formed the group United Forces for Our Disappeared in Coahuila and Mexico. In 2019, the group founded Searching for the Disappeared Mexico (BÚSCAME), a part of the Movement for Our Disappeared in Mexico (MNDM) which is comprised of over 70 collectives in 22 Mexican states and is active in 3 Central American countries. Ms. Fernández has participated in the development of public policies for searching for the disappeared, prosecuting those responsible, and providing wholistic care for the victims. Ms. Fernández holds a B.A. in Public Accounting from Northeastern Autonomous University in Torreon, Coahuila and a certificate in human rights with a focus on victims' rights from the Interamerican Academy of Human Rights.



Fredy Peccerelli is the Director of the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG) and has dedicated his life to upholding human rights and dignity through the application of forensic sciences to the search, investigation, and identification of victims from the internal armed conflict in Guatemala. He has collaborated and guided the development of a comprehensive strategy to apply forensic sciences to search for and identify victims of enforced disappearance. Mr. Peccerelli installed the first ISO 17025 Forensic Genetics laboratory in Latin America which specializes in the extraction of DNA from skeletal remains in complex conditions. He has served as an advisor to state entities that search for the disappeared, including the Comisión Nacional de Búsqueda (CNB) in Mexico, CONABÚSQUEDA in El Salvador, and the Unit for the Search of Disappeared Persons in Colombia.