



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Threats to Civil Society around the World

Panel I



Maina Kiai is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. He took up his functions on May 1, 2011, for an initial period of three years, and was renewed in 2014 for an additional three years. A lawyer trained at Nairobi and Harvard Universities, Kiai has spent the last twenty years campaigning for human rights and constitutional reform in Kenya – notably as founder and Executive Director of the unofficial Kenya Human Rights Commission, and then as Chairman of Kenya’s National Human Rights Commission (2003-2008). He previously served as Executive Director of the International Council on Human Rights Policy, as Director of Amnesty International’s Africa Programme, and as Africa Director of the International Human Rights Law Group. He currently works as co-director of InformAction, a community organizing NGO in Kenya. Kiai’s notable honors include Freedom House’s 2014 Freedom Award, the United Nations Foundation’s Leo Nevas Award (2016) and the AFL-CIO’s George Meany-Lane Kirkland Human Rights Award (2016).

Panel II



Vanessa L. Tucker is the vice president for analysis at Freedom House. She previously served as the project director of *Countries at the Crossroads*, Freedom House’s annual survey of democratic governance in 70 strategically important countries around the world. Her area of focus is the Middle East. Prior to joining Freedom House, Vanessa managed the Program on Intrastate Conflict at Harvard Kennedy School. She has also worked at the Kennedy School’s Women and Public Policy Program, and for the Democracy Program at the Carter Center. She holds a BA in international development from McGill University and an MA in international relations from Yale University.



Margaret Huang is the Executive Director of Amnesty International USA. As the chief executive officer, Margaret is responsible for advancing the vision and mission of the organization, managing the organization's day-to-day operations and activities, serving as the lead spokesperson for the organization, and ensuring the organization's financial health. She has worked with Members of Congress on critical pieces of legislation, advocated before the United Nations human rights mechanisms as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and published articles and opinion pieces on human rights. Ms. Huang's previous work experience includes serving as the Executive Director of the Rights Working Group, Director of the U.S. Program at Global Rights, as Program Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights, as Program Manager at The Asia Foundation, and as Committee Staff for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Ms. Huang received a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University, and a B.S.F.S. from Georgetown University.



Doug Rutzen is President and CEO of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) which works with governments, legislators, and civil society to develop the legal framework for civil society and philanthropy in over 100 countries. Under Doug's leadership, ICNL received the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. Doug teaches international civil society law at Georgetown Law School, serves on the Federal Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, co-chaired the State Department's Global Philanthropy Working Group, and is a member of InterAction's Board of Directors. Doug also co-chairs the civil society pillar of the Community of Democracies. In private practice, Doug was co-counsel on the first case against Libya for the bombing of Pan Am 103. Upon Czechoslovakia's transition to democracy, Doug served as a Legal Advisor to Parliament. Doug is a graduate of Yale Law School, with undergraduate studies at Cornell and Oxford.



Dr. Maria J. Stephan is a senior policy fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace and a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, where she focuses on civil resistance, nonviolent movements and their relevance to conflict transformation and democratic development. At the Atlantic Council she co-leads the Future of Authoritarianism project. Previously, Stephan was lead foreign affairs officer in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO), where she worked on both policy and operations for Afghanistan and Syria engagements. Earlier, Stephan directed policy and research at the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC), and taught courses on human rights and civil resistance at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and American University's School of International Service. Stephan is the editor of *Civilian Jihad: Nonviolent Struggle, Democratization and Governance in the Middle East* (Palgrave, 2009) and the co-author of *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict* (Columbia University Press, 2011), among other works. She holds an MA and PhD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a bachelor's degree from Boston College.