



## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

### Democracy and Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

#### Panel I



**Tom Perriello** is the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, appointed by Secretary of State John Kerry. Mr. Perriello previously served as a Congressman from Virginia's fifth district in 2008, Special Advisor to the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a conflict analyst, and CEO of Center for American Progress Action. Outside of government, Mr. Perriello has co-founded and managed justice entrepreneurship platforms and faith-based organizations advancing human rights, poverty reduction and sustainability. He supported the peace processes in Sierra Leone and Darfur, and has also conducted field research in Egypt, Afghanistan and the Middle East.



**Tom Malinowski** was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Previously, he was Washington Director for Human Rights Watch, one of the world's leading independent international organizations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights. He has also served as Senior Director on the National Security Council at the White House, where he oversaw the drafting of President Clinton's foreign policy speeches and strategic communications efforts around the world. He also served as a speechwriter for Secretaries of State Warren Christopher and Madeleine Albright, and member of the Policy Planning Staff at the Department of State.

## Panel II



**Ida Sawyer** is a senior researcher and advocate on the Democratic Republic of Congo. She has been based in Congo since January 2008, however, following a series of Human Rights Watch publications on political repression, Congolese authorities barred Ida from continuing to work in the country in August 2016. She is now based in Brussels. Ida has conducted research across Congo and in areas of northern Congo and neighboring countries affected by the Lord's Resistance Army. She also conducts high level advocacy with Congolese officials and international actors and outreach with local civil society groups.



**Fred Bauma** is a Congolese human rights and pro-democracy activist with the youth movement, LUCHA (Lutte pour le changement or struggle for change). For over five years now, he has worked to empower young people to be agents for change through active participation in the socio-economic and political life of their communities. In March 2015, he was arrested at the end of a conference on civic engagement of the youth. He then spent 17 months in prison without any normal judicial procedures. He was selected by the magazine [Jeune Afrique to be one of the 50 personalities who will make Africa in 2016](#), and IB TIMES called him [the most prominent activist in DRC](#). Bauma also volunteers with various nonprofit organizations.



**Sasha Lezhnev** is Associate Director of Policy at the Enough Project, where he focuses on peace, conflict, and corporate accountability issues in central Africa. He is a Governance Committee member of the Public-Private Alliance on Responsible Minerals Trade. He previously worked at Global Witness, the International Crisis Group, and the U.S. Institute of Peace on U.S. policy issues on conflict resources, extractive industries transparency, and peace processes in Africa. He was based in Uganda for 2 1/2 years as Senior Program Officer with the Northern Uganda Peace Initiative and advisor to the chief mediator of the peace process with the Lord's Resistance Army.



**Mvemba Phezo Dizolele** is a writer, foreign policy analyst, and independent journalist. He is also a lecturer in African studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. Dizolele was a grantee of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and covered the 2006 elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With the Pulitzer Center, he produced Congo's Bloody Coltan, a documentary report on the relationship between the Congo conflict and the scramble for mineral resources. He served as an election monitor with the Carter Center in Congo in 2006 and 2011. He was also embedded with UN peacekeepers in Congo.