



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Human Rights of the Rohingya People

Panel I



The Honorable Tom Andrews serves as President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. An extraordinary social change strategist who brings passion, savvy, and decades of experience, Andrews brings a commitment to challenging the devastating impacts of global warming, the injustice of growing income equality, and the assaults on the rights and dignity of marginalized people throughout the world. Andrews previously served as president and chief executive officer of United to End Genocide, and has led the national Win Without War coalition since 2002. He represented the First Congressional District of Maine in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1991 to 1995, following 10 years of service in the Maine State Legislature. From 1995 to 2011, Andrews was a senior advisor to the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Washington, D.C. He has worked to advance democracy and human rights throughout the world, including in Myanmar (also known as Burma), Indonesia, Cambodia, Yemen, Algeria, Serbia and Ukraine. Andrews is a graduate of Bowdoin College.



Matthew Smith is a co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Fortify Rights, a human rights organization that has been conducting significant investigations into the Rohingya crisis. In addition to its research and human rights investigations, Fortify Rights works closely and in collaboration with organizations and individuals from communities that are directly impacted by human rights violations. Matthew previously worked with Human Rights Watch (2011-2013), where he authored several reports on critical rights issues in Myanmar and China. Matthew also served as a project coordinator and senior consultant at EarthRights International (2005-2011), and is 2014 Echoing Green Global Fellow. His work has exposed wartime abuses and forced displacement, crimes against humanity, “ethnic cleansing,” multi-billion dollar corruption, "development"-induced abuses, and other human rights violations. He has written for the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, CNN, and

other outlets. Before moving to Southeast Asia in 2005, Matthew worked with Kerry Kennedy of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights on Speak Truth to Power. He also worked as a community organizer in New York City and as an emergency-services caseworker in Mobile, Alabama. He has an M.A. from Columbia University and a B.A. from Le Moyne College.



Andrea Gittleman is a program manager for the Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide. Previously she was interim director of U.S. policy and senior legislative counsel at Physicians for Human Rights where she designed advocacy and policy strategies on a broad range of international human rights issues, including mass atrocities. Prior to that she served as an Arthur Helton Global Human Rights Fellow with the Burma Lawyers' Council in Mae Sot, Thailand, where she coordinated an international advocacy campaign for criminal accountability in Burma. She also worked with the New York University Immigrant Rights Clinic as a law student and has had legal internships with Legal Momentum (the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund), the New York Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Rights Project, and Human Rights Watch's Women's Rights Division. Prior to attending law school she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mauritania where she managed gender and development programs. She received a JD from the New York University School of Law and a BA in political science and international studies from the University of Chicago.



Mohamed Naeem is an ethnic Rohingya from Myanmar and a community leader of the Rohingya people. Mr. Naeem regularly engages the government, human rights organizations, Buddhist leaders, and the international community in his work to promote the human rights of Rohingya and other communities in Myanmar. He is a member of the Lawka Tha Ra Foundation, an interfaith foundation in Myanmar led by Cardinal Charles Bo. He also serves as the Vice President and Head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Democratic Party for Development(NDPD), a predominately Rohingya political party in Myanmar. Mr. Naeem was a candidate for a seat in Myanmar Parliament in 2010, representing Sittwe, Rakhine State. The Government of Myanmar prevented anyone from his party from running for office in the 2015 national elections. He obtained a Bachelor of Science from California State University in Los Angeles in 2006 and returned to Myanmar in 2008.