



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Human Rights in Bahrain: Next Steps

Panel I



Brian Dooley is Director of Human Rights Defenders at Human Rights First. He first worked on the Hill in 1984 as an intern to Senator Ted Kennedy, researching what eventually became the Anti-Apartheid Act. He is the author of several books of US politics and half a dozen reports on Bahrain. His commentary appears regularly in national and international media on human rights issues.



Sarah Margon is the Washington director at Human Rights Watch. Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, Margon was associate director of sustainable security and peacebuilding at the Center for American Progress, where she researched and wrote on a wide range of issues including civilian protection, conflict prevention, humanitarian relief, and the rule of law. Margon also served as senior foreign policy advisor to Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) and as staff director to the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs. She has been a guest on various national and international media programs and has published op-eds in a wide range of outlets from the Washington Post to Foreign Policy. Margon holds a graduate degree from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service and an undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University (Connecticut).



The Honorable Matar Ebrahim Matar is a former member of the Bahraini parliament who served as Bahrain's youngest MP representing its largest constituency. In February 2011, along with 18 other members from his al-Wefaq political party, he resigned from parliament to protest the regime's crackdown against pro-reform demonstrators. During the Feb. 14 uprising, he served as a major spokesman for the pro-democracy movement. Matar was subsequently arbitrarily detained, and, after his release, left Bahrain for exile in the United States. In 2012, he received the "Leaders for Democracy Award" from the Project on Middle Democracy (POMED).



Cole Bockenfeld is the Deputy Director for Policy at the Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED). He has studied the Middle East and global diplomacy at the University of Arkansas, Georgetown University, and the University of London. Prior to joining POMED, he worked for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) on electoral assistance programs in Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, and the West Bank and Gaza, including fieldwork in Beirut and Baghdad. He also conducted research with the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy (CSID) in Amman. His writing on Middle Eastern politics and U.S. foreign policy has been published by the Washington Post, Foreign Policy, and the Christian Science Monitor. He has spoken on Middle East affairs with numerous media outlets including the New York Times, NPR, and the Boston Globe.