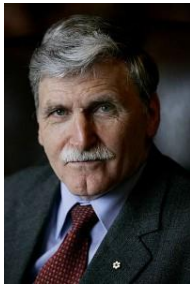




Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Combatting Child Soldiering: A Pernicious Form of Child Trafficking

Panelists



Roméo Dallaire is founder of the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, a global partnership with the mission to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers. A celebrated advocate for human rights, especially in regards to child soldiers, veterans, and the prevention of mass atrocities, Gen. Dallaire is also a respected government and UN adviser, a best-selling author, and former Canadian Senator. Notably, Gen. Dallaire was appointed Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda prior to and during the 1994 genocide. He provided the United Nations with information about the planned massacre, which ultimately took more than 800,000 lives in less than 100 days; yet, permission to intervene was denied and the UN withdrew its peacekeeping forces. Gen Dallaire, along with a small contingent of Ghanaian soldiers and military observers, disobeyed the command to withdraw and remained in Rwanda to fulfill the ethical obligation to protect those who sought refuge with the UN forces. His courage and leadership during this mission earned him the Meritorious Service Cross, the United States Legion of Merit, the Aegis Award on Genocide Prevention, and the affection and admiration of people around the globe.



Jo Becker is the Advocacy Director of the Children's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch. As the founding Chairperson of the International Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, she helped campaign successfully for an international treaty banning the forced recruitment of children under age 18 or their use in armed conflict. She has conducted field investigations on children's rights in Burma, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and the United States. Based on her expertise on the issue of child soldiers, she has addressed the United Nations Security Council, testified before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, conducted trainings for U.S. and African military officers, and testified as an expert in a Dutch war crimes trial.

Moderator



Jesse Eaves joined Humanity United as the Policy and Government Relations Director in 2015. In this role, he works to advance HU's policy priorities, which include anti-slavery efforts, peacebuilding, and atrocity prevention. Prior to joining HU, Jesse was the Senior Child Protection Policy Advisor for World Vision USA, where he managed an advocacy portfolio focused on child trafficking, child labor, child sexual exploitation, and child soldiers. In this role, through World Vision's global programs, he worked to strengthen community and government responses for the protection of children.