



## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

### Human Rights: Taking Stock and Looking Forward

#### Panelists

##### *Panel I*



**Dr. Daniel Calingaert** is acting president of Freedom House. He has served as executive vice president, overseeing Freedom House's contributions to policy debate on democracy and human rights issues and outreach to the U.S. Congress, foreign governments, media, and Freedom House supporters. He previously supervised Freedom House's civil society and media programs worldwide. He contributes frequently to policy and media discussions on democracy issues, including internet freedom, elections, authoritarian regimes, and democracy assistance. He also has taught at Georgetown University's Master of Arts Program in Democracy and Governance, Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, and American University's School of Public Affairs. Prior to joining Freedom House, Dr. Calingaert was Associate Director of American University's Center for Democracy and Election Management and Associate Director of the Commission on Federal Election Reform, which was co-chaired by Jimmy Carter and James A. Baker, III. He served as Director for Asia and as Deputy Director for Eastern Europe at the International Republican Institute (IRI), where he designed and managed a wide range of democracy promotion programs. Dr. Calingaert began his career as a researcher at the RAND Corporation and later directed programs for the Civic Education Project to reform social science education at universities across Eastern Europe and Eurasia. He graduated with highest honors in International Relations from Tufts University and earned his Master in Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy from Oxford University.



**Brian Dooley** is Director of Human Rights Defenders at Human Rights First. He first worked on Capitol 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 U.S. politics and half a dozen reports on Bahrain. His commentary appears regularly in national and international media on human rights issues.



**Margaux Ewen** is Advocacy and Communications Officer for Reporters Without Borders in the United States (RSF-USA). Margaux joined RSF's U.S. office in July 2015 with a background in International Law. She has degrees from the Sorbonne in France and the George Washington University Law School in the U.S. and speaks fluent French. She most recently worked with the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative to help develop a training manual on mining and human rights for civil society in Guinea. At RSF, Margaux monitors press freedom violations in the U.S., Canada and the English-speaking Caribbean, coordinates and develops advocacy and media outreach strategies, and answers media inquiries.

## ***Panel II***



**Naomi Kikoler** is the deputy director of the Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide. For six years she developed and implemented the Global Centre for the Responsibility to protect work on populations at risk and efforts to advance R2P globally and led the Centre's advocacy, including targeting the UN Security Council. An adjunct professor at the New School University, she is the author of numerous publications, including the 2013 Nexus Fund series on the emerging powers and mass atrocity prevention and the 2011 report *Risk Factors and Legal Norms Associated with Genocide Prevention* for the United Nations Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Jacob Blaustein Institute. Prior to joining the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect in 2008, she worked on national security and refugee law and policy for Amnesty International Canada. She has also worked in the Office of the Prosecutor at the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement at the Brookings Institution. She holds common law and civil law degrees from McGill University, an MSc in forced migration from Oxford University, where her thesis was on the Rwandan genocide, and a BA from the University of Toronto in international relations and peace and conflict studies. She is a board member of the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, a senior fellow at the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, and was called to the Bar of Upper Canada.



**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).



**Adotei Akwei** is Managing Director for Government Relations for Amnesty International USA. Before rejoining AIUSA, Adotei was the Deputy Director for Government Relations for CARE USA. As Deputy he worked on Climate Change, Emergencies, Countries in Conflict and Micro-finance in sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to taking this position he served as Regional Advocacy Advisor for CARE's Asia Regional Management Unit, where he supported CARE country offices in the development and implementation of national level advocacy strategies, as well as helping develop and implement regional advocacy priorities. Before joining CARE, Mr. Akwei worked with Amnesty International USA for 11 years, first as the senior Advocacy Director for Africa and then later as Director of Campaigns. Mr. Akwei also served as the Africa Director for the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, now Human Rights First, and as the Research and Human Rights Director for the American Committee on Africa and the Africa Fund. Mr. Akwei received his Masters in International Relations from the College of William and Mary and his Bachelors from the State University of New York College at Purchase.

### **Moderator**



**Stephen Rickard** is the director of the Open Society Foundation's Washington, D.C., office and directs Open Society's advocacy on federal domestic policy and U.S. foreign policy. He is also executive director of the Open Society Policy Center. Before joining Open Society, Rickard created and ran the Freedom Investment Project and served as director of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights and as Washington director for Amnesty International USA. He served as the senior advisor in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of South Asian Affairs during the Clinton administration. He also worked for Senator Moynihan and the Foreign Relations Committee in the U.S. Senate. In 2011, he was a Franklin Fellow in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. In the 1980s, Rickard worked as a litigator with White & Case in New York, Stockholm, and Washington, D.C. He received his JD from Yale Law School, an MPA from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and a BA from Adrian College