



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing
Co-hosted by the House Democracy Partnership

Parliamentarians at Risk Around the World

Panel I



Delsa Solórzano is a lawyer and member of the National Assembly of Venezuela for the period 2016 to 2021. From 2016 to 2018 she was President of the Assembly's Permanent Commission of Internal Political Affairs. Ms. Solorzano was Vice President of Venezuela's social-democratic party "Un Nuevo Tiempo" from which she separated in December 2018 to create her own political movement. She served as a member of the Latin American Parliament, Venezuela chapter, from 2011 to 2016. In January 2019, Ms. Solorzano was elected Vice President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which aims to defend the rights of parliamentarians across the world who are at risk.



Hisyar Ozsoy is a Kurdish member of parliament in Turkey with the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). Mr Ozsoy is the vice-president of the HDP responsible for foreign affairs and a member of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Commission. He simultaneously serves as a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He has longstanding ties with the United States and holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. He has taught courses in political sociology, cultural anthropology, and Middle Eastern cultures and politics at the University of Michigan-Flint.



Vicente de Lima is the brother of Senator Leila de Lima of the Philippines, As Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines from 2008 to 2010, Senator de Lima led a series of investigations into alleged extrajudicial killings linked to the so-called Davao Death Squad in Davao City, where Rodrigo Duterte had long been mayor. Her investigation concluded that Mr. Duterte, now President of the Philippines, was behind the Davao Death Squad. In 2010, Ms. de Lima was appointed Secretary of Justice. She resigned in 2015 and was elected to the Senate in 2016. As

Chair of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, she initiated an inquiry into the drug killings said to have taken place since President Duterte took office. As a result, she has been subjected to widespread intimidation and denigration, including by President Duterte directly. Senator de Lima was arrested and detained in February 2017 on the basis of accusations that she had received drug money to finance her senatorial campaign. The Inter-Parliamentary Union and others have publicly stated that these charges come in response to her criticism of President Duterte and have called on the Filipino authorities, in the absence of any credible evidence, to drop the charges and release Senator de Lima.



Gabriela Cuevas Barrón is Mexican MP who has been in politics for the last 20 years. She was a senator from September 2012 to July 2018 and now holds a seat in the Chamber of Deputies. She is the Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee, which is responsible for the analysis of Mexico's foreign policy. Ms. Cuevas Barron has worked to promote laws on human rights, gender equity, the fight against corruption, transparency and environmental protection. She is particularly active on the human rights of migrants and the protection of children. She was elected the 29th President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in October 2017. Previously she was a member of the IPU Committee to Promote

Respect for International Humanitarian Law (2014–2016), which she chaired for the first year, and has also been the internal auditor for the IPU in 2017.

Moderator



Mary Milliken is U.S. Foreign Policy Editor for Reuters in Washington DC, managing a team that covers U.S. diplomacy and national security from the White House to the State Department to the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. A Reuters veteran of 20 years, Mary has spent a large part of her career as a foreign correspondent in Brazil, Argentina, Spain and Portugal, covering emerging economies, debt and currency crises, political transitions and climate change. In the United States, she has been Reuters bureau chief for Washington in

the Obama years and for the West Coast, responsible for news in Silicon Valley, Hollywood and 17 states. She has also served as Weekend Editor for the Americas, and has had stints as editor for Top News, Entertainment and U.S. Media and Sports. Mary is a native of Wilmette, Illinois, and a graduate of Indiana University's School of Journalism.