



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Protecting Health Care During Armed Conflict

Panel I



Leonard Rubenstein is senior faculty and Director of the Program in Human Rights, Health and Conflict at the Center for Human Rights and Public Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a core faculty member at the Berman Institute of Bioethics and the Center for Humanitarian Health at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to joining Johns Hopkins in 2009, Mr. Rubenstein was a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, Executive Director and then President of Physicians for Human Rights, and Executive Director of the Judge David Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. Professor Rubenstein has spent decades researching human rights, ethics, and health, especially in connection with armed conflict and national security. He has undertaken field investigations involving Syria, Chechnya, the Balkans, the West Bank and Gaza, South Africa, Ethiopia, and elsewhere. He founded and chairs the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, a group of 40 humanitarian, human rights and health provider organizations that seeks to reduce attacks on and interference with health workers, patients, facilities and transports. He has a J.D. from Harvard Law School and LL.M. from Georgetown Law School.



Alexandra Boivin is Head of Regional Delegation – U.S. and Canada for the International Committee of the Red Cross. She manages the ICRC's relationship with the U.S. and Canadian governments, covering international humanitarian law, humanitarian policy and operational matters linked to U.S. and Canadian military action, including the ICRC's regular visits to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Regional Delegation also steers the ICRC's work with the Organization of American States and the World Bank, and interfaces with the National Societies of both the United States and Canada. Ms. Boivin previously served as Chief of Staff to ICRC President Peter Maurer in Geneva and supported ICRC delegations worldwide in promoting international humanitarian law. Before joining the ICRC, Ms. Boivin researched international legal issues including the legal regime applicable to military targeting, the transfer of small arms and light weapons, and the importance of engaging armed groups in a humanitarian dialogue. She holds degrees in Political Science, Middle East Studies and Law (McGill University, Montréal), and a Master's in International Relations, specialization in international law (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva).



Randall Bagwell serves as the Senior Director for International Services, U.S. Programs, and is responsible for International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Restoring Family Links and the Missing Maps program for the American Red Cross. His responsibilities encompass such issues as the dangers to medical workers and facilities in conflict zones. Before joining the Red Cross, Mr. Bagwell served for more than thirty-five years in the U.S. Army as a legal officer, infantry officer and infantry soldier. As a military legal advisor, he specialized in IHL and taught IHL at the U.S. Naval War College, the U.S. Army JAG School, the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies, and the International Institute of International Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. While in the military he had operational deployments twice to Afghanistan and once to Iraq. He retired from the Army in 2018 at the rank of Colonel. His last position in the Army was Dean of the Army’s Judge Advocate General’s School in Charlottesville, Virginia, the federal government’s only American Bar Association-approved law school.



Susannah Sirkin, M.Ed., is director of policy and a senior advisor at Physicians for Human Rights, an independent non-governmental organization that uses medicine and science to document human rights violations and advocates to stop them. Ms. Sirkin oversees PHR’s engagement with the United Nations, domestic and international justice systems, and human rights coalitions and has organized health and human rights investigations including the documentation of genocide and systematic rape in Darfur, Sudan; exhumations of mass graves in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda for the International Criminal Tribunals; and documentation of Saddam Hussein’s use of chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds in the 1980s. She has played a lead role in PHR’s documentation of attacks on health care facilities and personnel in conflict zones, including Syria and Yemen. She represents PHR as a member of the Steering Committee for the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition and served as PHR’s representative from 1992 to 2001 on the Coordination Committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize for Peace. She holds a B.A. in European studies from Mount Holyoke College and an M.Ed. from Boston University.



Dr. Larry Lewis a research director at CAN, a nonprofit research and analysis organization located in Arlington, VA. He spearheaded the first data-based approach to protecting civilians in conflict, analyzing military operational data in conjunction with open-source data. He has worked extensively to help militaries reduce civilian casualties in their operations, leading multiple studies to determine the causes of civilian casualties and to develop tailored, actionable solutions: policy and practical measures complimentary to existing protections and principles in international humanitarian law. He was lead analyst and co-author, with Dr. Sarah Sewall, for the Joint Civilian Casualty Study, which General David Petraeus described as “the first comprehensive assessment of the problem of civilian protection.” Dr. Lewis has also contributed to U.S. national policy on civilian casualties and has worked to improve the civilian protection policies and practices of partners, including work with the United Nations, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia.