



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

International Financial Institutions and Human Rights

Panel I

Obang Metho, Executive Director, Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia



Obang Metho is the Executive Director of the SMNE(www.solidaritymovement.org) a non-political and non-violent social justice movement of diverse people that advocates for freedom, justice, good governance and upholding the civil, human and economic rights of the people of Ethiopia, without regard to ethnicity, religion, political affiliation or other differences. The SMNE believes a more open, transparent and competitive market economy, supported by viable institutions and reasonable protections, which provides equal opportunity, will result in greater prosperity to the people rather than keeping it in the hands of a few political elites. SMNE and the Oakland Institute co-produced the Ethiopian portion of the comprehensive investigative report, *Understanding Land Investment Deals in Africa*, published in June 2011.

Mr. Metho is a human rights activist who has tirelessly advocates for human rights, justice, freedom and environment, enhanced accountability in politics and peace in Africa for over 10 years. He has briefed and met with leaders and officials at United Nations, the European Parliament, the US Department of State, the US Senate, the US House of Representatives, the World Bank and the Council for Foreign Relations, amongst others. Mr. Metho is a courageous defender of fundamental respect for human life and is committed to work for the reconciliation, forgiveness and healing of affected peoples in order to create a positive future.

Milton Sanchez, General Secretary, The Interinstitutional Platform of Celendin



Milton Sánchez Cubas is the General Secretary of the Inter-Institutional Platform of Celendín (PIC). The PIC is a coalition of more than 30 base organizations of the Province of Celendin in the Region of Cajamarca, in the north of Peru. The PIC was formed at the end of 2009 with the objective of protecting the province's hydrologic ecosystems threatened by the development of mega mining and hydroelectric projects planned for its territory. Drawing upon his extensive experience in the areas of local economic development, governance, and management, he has participated in numerous different conferences and events, nationally and internationally, representing the voice of affected communities in the defense of human rights, the environment, local civil society participation, and sustainable development.

Nezir Sinani, Safeguards Coordinator and Climate Change Coordinator, Bank Information Center



Nezir Sinani is an international development specialist with experience in environmental and social policy research, strategic communications, and civil society advocacy. As a consultant with the Bank Information Center and former Research Analyst for the Institute for Development Policy in Kosovo, Mr. Sinani has in-depth understanding of the engagement of civil society to advocate for sustainable development standards and safeguards. Mr. Sinani served formerly as Corporate Communications Manager for a state-owned energy company in Kosovo, where he led public outreach and media engagement during a process of structural reform in the energy sector. He has also served as Communications Specialist for a governance reform program funded by USAID in Kosovo, focusing on civil society engagement, civic education, and awareness campaigns. He holds an M.S. in Service Management from Rochester Institute of Technology, and a B.A. in English from the University of Pristina. He is fluent in English and Albanian, and is proficient in Serbo-Croatian and German.

Panel II

Professor Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights



Philip Alston was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights in June 2014, by the Human Rights Council. He is John Norton Pomeroy Professor of Law at New York University School of Law, where his teaching focuses primarily on international law, human rights law, and international criminal law, and he co-chairs the NYU Center for Human Rights and Global Justice. Alston has served the United Nations in various capacities since the 1980s. He was the first Rapporteur of the U.N. Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights from 1987 until 1990, and then chaired the Committee for eight years until the end of 1998. Between 2002 and 2007, he served as Special Adviser to the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Millennium Development Goals, and between 2004 and 2010, as Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions. In 2014, he was a member of the International Commission of Inquiry on the Central African Republic, set up by the United Nations Security Council. Alston holds a J.S.D. from Berkeley School of Law and master's degrees from Berkeley School of Law and University of Melbourne Law School