



## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

### Elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

#### Panel I



**John Tomaszewski** is the International Republican Institute's Regional Director for Africa. In this capacity, he provides overall strategic direction and management for IRI's multi-million-dollar project portfolio in Sub-Saharan Africa. He currently oversees active IRI democracy and governance projects in seventeen countries across the subcontinent as well as regional initiatives in The Sahel, Great Lakes and Southern Africa. He has extensive experience implementing a range of projects throughout Africa focused on legislative and political party strengthening, public opinion research, youth and gender inclusion, civil society capacity building, campaign and public affairs management, and subnational governance among others. Before joining IRI, Tomaszewski worked for the Crisis and Litigation Practice at LEVICK Strategic Communications in Washington, DC.



**Anthony (Tony) Gambino** joined the Board of the Panzi Foundation USA in 2015 and was named its Executive Director in early 2017. Mr. Gambino first went to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 1979 as a Peace Corps volunteer, teaching English at the secondary and university levels. Gambino worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for seven years, reopening the USAID Mission in the DRC in 1997 and, subsequently, serving as the Mission Director in Kinshasa from 2001-2004, receiving USAID's Superior Honor Award. Previously he worked on the staff of the Select Committee on Hunger of the U.S. House of Representatives, for the U.S. NGO coalition InterAction, at the Department of State and with numerous public and private organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Carter Center.



**Paul Fagan** is the director of the Human Rights and Democracy programs for the McCain Institute for International Leadership. Previously, he served as the executive director of the Eastern Congo Initiative (ECI), an organization founded by Ben Affleck that seeks to bring the world's attention to the ongoing situation in that country but also highlight the abundant opportunities for economic and social development. Prior to joining ECI, Fagan worked at the International Republican Institute (IRI) as Africa director for nearly four years, where he oversaw IRI's programs during South Sudan's transition to independence; led election observation missions to Nigeria and Somaliland; implemented IRI's first programs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and ushered in IRI's return to Mali. He was also chief of party for IRI's programs in Kenya and Zimbabwe.



**Mvemba Phezo Dizolele** is a writer, foreign policy analyst, and independent journalist. A former Peter J. Duignan Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, he is the author of the forthcoming biography *Mobutu: the Rise and Fall of the Leopard King* (Random House UK). He was a grantee of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and covered the 2006 historic elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With the Pulitzer Center, he produced *Congo's Bloody Coltan*, a documentary report on the relationship between the Congo conflict and the scramble for mineral resources. He served as an election monitor with the Carter Center in Congo in 2006 and 2011. He was also embedded with United Nations peacekeepers in Congo's Ituri district and South Kivu province as a reporter. Dizolele is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

### Moderator



**Alexis Arieff** is a Specialist in African Affairs at the Congressional Research Service, where she analyzes policy issues regarding North, West, and Central Africa for Members of Congress and their staff. In 2015, Alexis was detailed to the State Department as a Washington-based policy advisor to the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations. She previously completed a detail as a regional director for West Africa in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and she served as an international election observer in Guinea in 2010 and in Tunisia in 2011 and 2014. Before joining CRS full time in 2009 as a Presidential Management Fellow, Alexis worked as a researcher on Africa at the Committee to Protect Journalists; as a research fellow at the International Crisis Group's West Africa field office in Dakar, Senegal; and as a contributing writer for Freedom House. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Guinea, based in Conakry, in 2008-2009.