



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Human Rights in Qatar

Panelists



Todd Ruffner is Advocacy Officer for the Project on Middle East Democracy, POMED. He serves as the Editor of the *POMED Wire* blog, the *Weekly Wire* digest, and country digests on Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, and Iran, and also leads POMED's collaboration on the Security Assistance Monitor project. He has studied the Middle East since 2005, and lived in both Cairo and Damascus. Todd received his Master's degree from the Ohio State University's Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Program with a concentration on Iran-Iraq border disputes in the 20th century, and his Bachelor's degree from Elon University with a focus on the Muslim Brotherhood during the presidency of Gamal Abdel Nasser. He is proficient in Persian and Arabic, having studied at the American University in Cairo and the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Immersion program.



Sarah Leah Whitson is Executive Director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa Division. She oversees the work of the division in 19 countries, with staff located in 10 countries. She has led dozens of advocacy and investigative missions throughout the region, focusing on issues of armed conflict, accountability, legal reform, migrant workers, and political rights. She has published widely on human rights issues in the Middle East in international and regional media, including *The New York Times*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *CNN*, and appears regularly on Al-Jazeera, BBC, NPR, and CNN. Before joining Human Rights Watch, Whitson worked in New York for Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and Harvard Law School. Whitson is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She speaks Armenian and Arabic.



Raed Jarrar is the Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International USA. He holds a degree in architecture from the University of Baghdad and a Master's degree in Architectural Engineering, specialized in post-war reconstruction, from the University of Jordan. He has testified before Congress numerous times about issues pertaining to the Middle East and North Africa.

Moderator



Dr. Kenneth Katzman is a senior Middle East analyst at the Congressional Research Service, which conducts research and analysis for the U.S. Congress. He covers Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Persian Gulf Affairs. He is responsible for analyzing regional developments and U.S. policy to assist members of Congress in their legislative and oversight responsibilities. He has participated in several congressional delegations to the region at the Member and staff level, and given many official presentations and briefings at conferences and meetings throughout Europe, Asia, and the Islamic world. Dr. Katzman holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from New York University, and previously served as an analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency. He is the author of various outside publications, including a book entitled "The Warriors of Islam: Iran's Revolutionary Guard," based on his doctoral dissertation.