



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Tibet & China: Searching for a New Way Forward

Panel I

Dr. Sarah Sewall, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, and Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, Department of State



Sarah Sewall was sworn in as Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights on February 20, 2014. She serves concurrently as the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues.

Over the previous decade, Dr. Sewall taught at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where she also served as Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, launched the MARO (Mass Atrocities Response Operations) Project and directed the Program on National Security and Human Rights. She served on the U.S. Defense Policy Board and on the boards of Oxfam America and the Center for Naval Analyses. In 2012, she was Minerva Chair at the Naval War College. She also led several research studies of U.S. military operations for the Department of Defense. During the Clinton Administration, Dr. Sewall served as the inaugural Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Assistance. Prior to joining the executive branch, she served six years as the Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to U.S. Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell.

Panel II

Sophie Richardson, China Director, Human Rights Watch



Sophie Richardson is the China director at Human Rights Watch. A graduate of the University of Virginia, the Hopkins-Nanjing Program, and Oberlin College, Dr. Richardson is the author of numerous articles on domestic Chinese political reform, democratization, and human rights in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Vietnam. She has testified before the European Parliament, US Senate and House of Representatives, and provided extensive commentary to global media. She is the author of *China, Cambodia, and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence* (Columbia University Press, Dec. 2009), an in-depth examination of China's foreign policy since 1954's Geneva Conference, including rare interviews with policy makers.

Richard Gere, Chairman of the Board, International Campaign for Tibet



Richard Gere is an internationally renowned actor, activist and philanthropist. For over thirty years, he has worked to draw attention and practical resolutions to humanitarian crises rooted in injustice, inequality, and intolerance. Through his private foundation, the Gere Foundation, he has served as a long time rights advocate whose humanitarian efforts have taken him to Tibet, India, Mongolia, Nepal, Bhutan, Kosovo, Central America, and the Middle East.

Since the early nineteen-eighties, Mr. Gere has vigorously advocated for the rights of Tibetan people and the preservation of Tibetan culture. Gere was the Co-Founder and Chairman of Tibet House U.S. in 1987 and joined the International Campaign for Tibet's Board of Directors where he has served as its Board Chairman since 1995. Mr. Gere has addressed the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, the U.S. House of Representatives, European Parliament, and the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. He has sponsored numerous U.S. visits, teachings, and publications by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Mr. Gere has also been an HIV/AIDS activist for more than thirty years, launching the Heroes Project in partnership with the Avahan AIDS Initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to raise awareness and galvanize societal leaders and media to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India.

In 1991, Mr. Gere founded the Gere Foundation. The Gere Foundation is a private organization focused on civil and human rights, education, public health and Tibetan advocacy and preservation. He has received honors from amfAR, Amnesty International, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Hadassah International, the OneXOne Foundation, the Tibet Fund, and the Harvard AIDS Institute. He is also the recipient of CARE's Humanitarian Award for Global Change, the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award, and the Marian Anderson Award.

Kaydor Aukatsang, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the Americas



Kaydor Aukatsang is the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration to North America.

Before taking up his current position, Mr Aukatsang served as a Special Adviser to Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay, the democratically elected leader of the Tibetan people. Mr Aukatsang spent eleven years in San Francisco where his work experience includes serving as: President of the Tibetan Association of Northern California; Development Director at the Natural Capital Institute; United States Representative for world renowned photojournalist and humanist Sebastiao Salgado; and as Philanthropic Adviser at the Tides Foundation. Mr. Aukatsang has also worked at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in New York and the International Campaign for Tibet in Washington, DC.

Kaydor Aukatsang holds BA degree from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, India, and MA degree in International Business and Politics from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, USA.