



## Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

### Ten Years Later: The Status of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Tuesday, May 17th, 2016  
2:00 PM  
2261 Rayburn House Office Building

#### Witnesses

##### Panel I



**Ambassador Keith M. Harper** was nominated by President Obama to serve as the Representative of the United States to the United Nations Human Rights Council. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 4, 2014.

Previously, Mr. Harper was a partner at the law firm of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, where he was chair of the Native American Practice Group. He currently serves as a Member on the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. Previously, Mr. Harper served as Senior Staff Attorney for the Native American Rights Fund from 1995 to 2006. From 2007 to 2008, he served as a Supreme Court Justice on the Supreme Court of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and from 2001 to 2007, he served as an Appellate Justice on the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court. From 1998 to 2001, he was an adjunct professor at the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, and from 1999 to 2001, he was a Professorial Lecturer at the American University Washington College of Law. He is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. He received a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and a J.D. from New York University School of Law.



**Erin M. Barclay** is a career member of the Senior Executive Service, and currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs. Prior to assuming this position, she was the Acting Assistant Secretary in the Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations.

Ms. Barclay began her Department of State career in the European Bureau's Office of Assistance Coordination to Europe and Eurasia, where she developed and implemented EUR's first interagency rule-of-law assessment tool. In 2007 she moved to the Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. As the founding director of that office for three years, she built an organization that today provides strategic direction to all of INL on police, corrections, and rule-of-law programming and policies, which are often at the heart of CSO's work.

Prior to joining the Department, she was executive director of the Network of East West Women, a nonprofit that promotes women's human rights in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Ms. Barclay has been an adjunct professor of international women's human rights at Georgetown University Law Center and George Mason University. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton and the University at Buffalo School of Law, and is an attorney admitted in New York State and the District of Columbia



**Scott Busby** serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC, where he oversees the Bureau's work in East Asia and the Pacific as well as on multilateral and global issues, including U.S. engagement on human rights at the United Nations, Internet freedom, and business and human rights.

Previously, he served as Director for Human Rights on the National Security Council in the White House from 2009 to 2011 where he managed a wide range of human rights and refugee issues. From 2005 to 2009, he was Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees in Geneva, Switzerland.

Prior positions include Director of the Office of Policy and Resource Planning at the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration in the Department of State (2000-2005), Director for Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs at the National Security Council under President Clinton (1997-2000), counsel at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) (1995-1997) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (1992-1995). He got

his start in federal service as an Asylum Officer at INS. Scott holds advanced degrees in sociology and law from the University of California at Berkeley and received his B.A. from Amherst College.

## **Panel II**



**Mark P. Lagon** is President of Freedom House. From 2010 through 2014, Lagon was the Chair for Global Politics and Security at Georgetown University's Master of Science in Foreign Service Program, and Adjunct Senior Fellow for Human Rights at the Council on Foreign Relations. He was previously Executive Director and CEO of the leading anti-human trafficking nonprofit, Polaris. He earlier served at the State Department as U.S. Ambassador at Large, directing the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, from 2007 to 2009. He was previously Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, with responsibility for human rights, humanitarian issues and United Nations reform.

Lagon received both his M.A. and Ph.D. in Government from Georgetown University, and an A.B. from Harvard University. He is the author of numerous articles on international affairs and co-editor of the recently released book *Human Dignity and the Future of Global Institutions*.



**Ted Piccone** is a Senior Fellow in the Project on International Order and Strategy and Latin America Initiative in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings. His research is focused on global democracy and human rights policies; U.S.-Latin American relations, including Cuba; emerging powers; and multilateral affairs. Previously, he served as the acting vice president and director from 2013 to 2014 and deputy director from 2008 to 2013 of the Foreign Policy program. Piccone is the author of *"Five Rising Democracies and the Fate of the International Liberal Order"* (Brookings Institution Press, 2016).



**Hillel Neuer** is the Executive Director of United Nations Watch, a human rights group based in Geneva, Switzerland. The Tribune de Genève described Neuer as a human rights activist who is “feared and dreaded” by the world’s dictatorships. Since 2009, he has chaired the annual Geneva Summit for Human Rights, a gathering of dissidents organized by 25 NGOs. An expert on the UN Human Rights Council, he has addressed every one of its 31 regular sessions since 2006. Neuer has published widely on international law and human rights, and has appeared in debates on CNN, BBC and Al Jazeera. Prior to UN Watch, as a litigation associate at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, Neuer was cited by the U.S. Federal Court for the high quality of his pro bono advocacy. He holds four degrees in law and politics, and is a member of the New York Bar.



**Marc Limon** is the Executive Director of the Universal Rights Group. Previously, Marc worked as a diplomat (rank of Counsellor) at the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council from the body’s establishment in 2006 until the end of 2012. This included participating in the negotiations on the institution-building package (which determined how the Council would operate), on the Council’s mid-term review, and on a wide-range of thematic and country-specific issues over the course of twenty-one regular sessions and nineteen special sessions.

During his time as a diplomat at the Council, Marc consistently worked to improve the body’s effectiveness, visibility and accessibility.

Between 2006 and 2012, Marc also prepared reports for and interacted with all UN human rights treaty bodies, drafted national reports under the Universal Periodic Review, and organised five Special Procedure country missions. He therefore possesses first-hand knowledge of the international human rights system, how it works, its weaknesses and the challenges it faces to improve its effectiveness.

Prior to coming to Geneva, Marc worked as a government affairs and media relations consultant in Brussels, focusing on EU policy-making in the areas of international relations, human rights, trade and the environment. He also advised a range of clients, from the public and private sectors, on communications and public relations.