



U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing

Targeted Sanctions: Implications for International Religious Freedom

Panel



Michael Weber is an Analyst in Foreign Affairs in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service. Mr. Weber's work focuses on international democracy and human rights issues. He has written on foreign policy topics including global democratic trends, human rights sanctions, international religious freedom, human trafficking, and anti-corruption. He has previously worked in foreign affairs roles at the Department of State and the Department of Defense. He holds an MPA from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs.



Michael Breen is President and Chief Executive Officer of Human Rights First, one of the nation's leading human rights advocacy organizations. Before joining Human Rights First, Mr. Breen served as president and CEO of the Truman National Security Project, a nationwide membership organization of diverse leaders inspired to serve in the aftermath of 9/11 and committed to shaping and advocating for tough, smart national security solutions. Prior to his work at the Truman Project, Mr. Breen led soldiers in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan as a U.S. Army officer, including by serving for a year as a platoon leader in the Pech and Korengal Valleys with the 173rd Airborne. After leaving the military, he served in the Office of White House Counsel and co-founded the International Refugee Assistance Project, working with refugee families in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. He holds a J.D. from Yale Law School and a B.A. from Dartmouth, having also studied in Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the United Kingdom.



Justyna Gudzowska is the Director of Illicit Finance Policy at The Sentry, an investigative and policy organization that follows the dirty money connected to African war criminals and transnational war profiteers and also seeks to shut those benefiting from violence out of the international financial system. Prior to joining The Sentry, Ms. Gudzowska was an Executive Director in Morgan Stanley's Global Financial Crimes group, delivering advice and counsel to the Firm's businesses on financial crimes issues, and served as the lead lawyer on sanctions issues. From 2013 to 2018, she served as an Expert at the United Nations, advising the Security Council on sanctions against ISIS, Al-Qaida, the Taliban, and their associates, as well as terrorism financing more broadly. Prior to her appointment to the United Nations, from 2009 to 2013 she served as a legal advisor to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) at the Department of the Treasury, where she advised on the full spectrum of economic sanctions issues. Ms. Gudzowska received her J.D. from Yale Law School and holds Master's degrees from the University of Cambridge and the London School of Economics, where she was a Marshall Scholar, as well as a B.A. from Rice University.



Annie Boyajian is Vice President for Policy and Advocacy at Freedom House where she leads engagement with the U.S. government and collaboration with American human rights groups. She contributes to Freedom House publications including *Freedom in the World*, *Freedom on the Net*, *Freedom of the Press*, and *The Battle for China's Spirit* and authored *Democratic Crisis in Hong Kong: Recommendations for Policymakers*. Prior to joining Freedom House, she spent seven years on Capitol Hill, working in both the Senate and the House, serving most recently as a Legislative Director and focusing on foreign policy, human rights, and appropriations issues. Ms. Boyajian holds a Master's degree in International Affairs: US Foreign Policy from American University's School of International Service. Her Master's research project focused on China's influence on African media. She is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, former member of the Hong Kong Democracy Council Board of Directors, and former congressional fellow at the Partnership for a Secure America.