



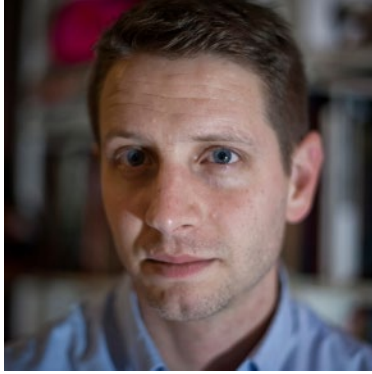
## U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing

# Transnational Repression of Freedom of Religion or Belief

### Panel



**Andrea J. Prasow** is the executive director of the Freedom Initiative, a U.S.-based non-partisan human rights organization that advocates for the freedom of prisoners wrongfully detained across the Middle East and North Africa. A lawyer and global human rights advocate, Andrea's expertise includes U.S. national security and foreign policy. She is a frequent commentator in print, radio and television, and has published in a wide range of media outlets, including Politico, The Hill, Foreign Policy, Newsweek, The Guardian, The Huffington Post, and Just Security. Prior to joining The Freedom Initiative, Andrea spent 12 years at Human Rights Watch, pressing the U.S. government to place the protection and promotion of human rights at the center of its foreign and national security policies. She has previously worked as a defense lawyer in the Office of Military Commissions, representing detainees in Guantanamo charged in the military commission system. In private practice at a New York law firm, Andrea served as habeas counsel for detainees in Guantanamo, as well as practiced corporate litigation. Andrea holds an Honors B.A. from the University of Toronto, and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She is admitted to practice law in the State of New York and the District of Columbia.



**Nate Schenkkan** is Senior Director of Research for Freedom House's work on countering authoritarianism. In this role, he works on Freedom House's integrated strategy for pushing back against authoritarianism around the world. At Freedom House, he previously served as Director for Special Research, as Project Director for the annual report Nations in Transit, and as a Senior Program Officer for Eurasia programs. He has written widely on Turkey and Central Asia, including multiple special reports at Freedom House, as well as articles, op-eds, and Congressional testimony. From 2019-2021 he led Freedom House's work on transnational repression, or the targeting of exiles and dissidents abroad. Prior to joining Freedom House, Schenkkan worked as a journalist in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. He has a master's degree in Russian and Eurasian Studies from Columbia University's Harriman Institute.



**Dr. Teng Biao** is an academic lawyer, currently Hauser Human Rights Scholar at Hunter College, and Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago. He had been a lecturer at the China University of Politics and Law (Beijing), and a visiting scholar at Yale, Harvard and NYU. Teng's research focuses on criminal justice, human rights, social movements, and political transition in China. Teng defended cases involving freedom of expression, religious freedom, the death penalty, Tibetans and Uyghurs. He co-founded two human rights NGOs in Beijing – the Open Constitution Initiative, and China Against the Death Penalty, in 2003 and 2010, respectively. He is one of the earliest promoters of the Rights Defense Movement in China and the manifesto Charter 08, for which Dr. Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Teng has received various international human rights awards including the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic (2007) and NED's Democracy Award (2008). He is completing a book on the human rights movement and political transition in China.



**Marcus Michaelsen, PhD**, is a researcher studying digital technologies, human rights activism and authoritarian politics. He works as a Senior Researcher at the Citizen Lab based at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto, where he focuses on digital transnational repression. Previously he was a Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Fellow in the Law, Science, Technology and Society (LSTS) research group of Vrije Universiteit Brussel and a Senior Information Controls Fellow with the Open Technology Fund, a non-profit organisation supporting global internet freedom. From 2014 until

2018, Dr. Michaelsen was a post-doctoral researcher in the project 'Authoritarianism in a Global Age' in the Political Science Department of the University of Amsterdam. His work on transnational repression has been published in Globalizations, Global Networks, the European Journal of International Security, and Surveillance & Society.



**Julie Millsap** serves as the Government Relations Manager at The Uyghur Human Rights Project. She became publicly involved in Uyghur advocacy in 2020, when she left China after 10 years residing and working in the Inner Mongolia region. She has also been a frequent collaborator with the World Uyghur Congress, Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project, and various other entities working on democracy promotion and human rights. In 2021, she served as an Expert Witness for the Uyghur Tribunal in London. During the course of her advocacy, she has met with and advised government officials in Turkey, the United

Kingdom, Europe, Canada, and the United States to raise the issues and discuss policy options to address the challenges posed by the Chinese Communist Party and needed changes to counter transnational repression and stop Uyghur genocide. She is fluent in Mandarin and resides in the Washington D.C. area with her family.