

Human Rights at Risk: Popular Uprisings and Regime Change

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SPEAKERS

(in order of presentation)



Suzanne Mettler is the John L. Senior Professor of American Institutions in the Government Department at Cornell University. Her research and teaching interests include American political development, inequality, public policy, political behavior, and democracy. She is the author of six books, including, most recently, *Four Threats: The Recurring Crises of American Democracy* (St. Martin's Press, 2020), co-authored with Robert C. Lieberman. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a recipient of Guggenheim and Radcliffe Fellowships. She serves on the boards of the Scholars Strategy Network and the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences.



Lisa Mueller is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and the Director of African Studies at Macalester College. She received her PhD from UCLA, specializing in comparative politics, political economy, and social movements. Her book *Political Protest in Contemporary Africa* (Cambridge University Press) received an honorable mention from the African Politics Conference Group for Best Book of 2018. Mueller's other work has appeared in leading African Studies journals, including *African Affairs*, *The African Studies Review*, and *The Journal of Modern African Studies*. She is a frequent contributor to the "Monkey Cage" blog of the *Washington Post* and an advisor to USAID, the World Bank, and other governmental and non-governmental agencies. She has conducted fieldwork in Niger, Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Malawi, and Mauritius.



Ji Yeon (Jean) Hong is an Assistant Professor at the Division of Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). She obtained her PhD degree from the Department of Politics at New York University. Before NYU, she studied political science, economics (BA) and international relations (MS) at Seoul National University, Korea. Her research interest centers on the political economy of authoritarian regimes, with particular attention to East Asia. She has various ongoing research projects related to the legacy of authoritarian past, varieties of the democratization process, and the long-term impact of political violence. Hong's research has been published in *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, and *Political Science Research and Methods*, among others.



Harry Verhoeven is the Convenor of the Oxford University China-Africa Network and an Associate Member of the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Oxford. He is the author of *Water, Civilisation and Power in Sudan. The Political Economy of Military-Islamist State Building* (Cambridge University Press) and *Why Comrades Go To War. Liberation Politics and the Outbreak of Africa's Deadliest Conflict* (co-authored with Philip Roessler, Oxford University Press/Hurst). He is also the editor of *Environmental Politics in the Middle East. Local Struggles, Global Connections* (Oxford University Press/Hurst). Verhoeven is a Senior Adviser to the European Institute of Peace.



Aly Verjee is a political analyst, strategist, international mediator, and award-winning writer. From 2017-2019, he was a visiting expert and senior advisor to the Africa program at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington D.C. From 2015-2016, he was deputy and then acting chief of staff to and speechwriter for the former president of Botswana, Festus Mogae, the chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission overseeing the 2015 peace agreement in South Sudan. From 2014-2015, he was senior advisor to and speechwriter for the chief mediator of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-led peace process for South Sudan, the former foreign minister of Ethiopia, Seyoum Mesfin. In that capacity, he led the drafting of the resulting peace agreement.



Suliman Baldo is currently serving as Senior Policy Advisor for The Sentry. He directed the Sudan Democracy First Group (2013-2015), a Sudan-focused think tank aiming to help bring about faster democratization and peace in the war torn country. From August 2013 to 2018, Baldo was concurrently vested with the mandate of UN Independent Expert on the Human Rights Situation in Mali. In 2010 and 2011, he provided expert advice to joint UN and African Union mediation teams on justice for victims of the conflict in Darfur and worked as an independent commissioner in the UN Independent Commission of Investigations into post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire. Between 2006 and early 2013, Baldo served as director of the Africa Program at the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), where he oversaw six country programs that supported post-conflict transitions in Africa through justice and other institutional reforms. He served as Africa Director at the International Crisis Group (ICG) from 2004 to 2006, and worked from 1995 to 2002 at Human Rights Watch (HRW) as senior researcher for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Horn of Africa. Baldo has served on the advisory boards of prominent human rights organizations. These include the Global Board of the Open Society Foundations (2008-2010) and the Open Society Initiative for East Africa (2011-March 2014). He authored and co-authored several Africa and Sudan-focused reports and briefing papers published under his name or by the Enough Project, SDFG, the ICTJ, ICG and HRW. He also published independently in Arabic on the issues of atrocity crimes in Sudan and transitional justice requirements for the victims of the Darfur massacres. Baldo has lectured at the

University of Khartoum and worked in the humanitarian sector, first as a volunteer and later professionally, serving as director for Sudan and the Horn of Africa for Oxfam America (1988-1992). He holds a PhD in comparative literature from the University of Dijon in France and undergraduate degrees from the University of Khartoum.



Jehanne Henry is a former associate director in Human Rights Watch's Africa division. She supervised and contributed to the work on Sudan, South Sudan, and neighboring countries in East Africa. She worked with the organization from late 2007 to 2020, focusing initially on the conflict in Darfur, then on a range of other issues in Sudan and South Sudan. Prior to joining the organization, she served as a human rights officer with the United Nations Mission in Sudan based in North Darfur. She worked on human rights and rule of law issues with USAID in Cambodia and as a legal adviser in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, as well as managed a legal aid program with the American Refugee Committee in Kosovo. Henry also worked in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, and clerked for a U.S. federal judge in New York. She is admitted to the New York state bar.