

Mel Middleton

Mel Middleton is currently the director of Freedom Quest International, a non-profit, humanitarian and human rights organization based in Calgary, Alberta. He helped set up and co-ordinate the Network for East African Relief (NEAR), a consortium of agencies which brought humanitarian supplies to "restricted" areas of Sudan, such as the Nuba Mountains. He served as an advisor to the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi and the Canadian Embassy in Addis Ababa, on issues pertaining to Southern Sudan, Uganda and Somalia.

Mr. Middleton was born and raised in Ethiopia and has lived over 26 years in the Horn of Africa region. He has lived in Sudan for more than 10 years - both in the north and the south.

Ronald Schwartz

Ronald D. Schwartz is Professor of Sociology at Memorial University of Newfoundland. He is the author of Circle of Protest: Political Ritual In the Tibetan Uprising (Columbia University Press 1994) and has written extensively on the social and political background to the current unrest in Tibet. He has conducted research both inside of Tibet and with Tibetan refugees in India and Nepal. In 1992-1993 he was a Research Fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong.

In addition to his extensive publication over the past 10 years on human rights in Tibet, Professor Schwartz has attended many conferences and seminars on the subject in Europe, Asia and the U.S. both as a participant and as an invited lecturer.

Susanne Tamas

Susanne Tamas is Director of Governmental Relations for the Baha'i Community of Canada. Her work involves the defence of Baha'is suffering persecution, such as the Baha'i community in Iran, and collaboration with government and national NGO's located in Ottawa on three thematic areas - advancement of women, human rights education and sustainable development.

Susanne has lived and worked across Canada as a social worker, counsellor, elementary and junior high school teacher and college administrator. She especially treasures the many years which she spent in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Susanne's travels to South America, her experiences in West Africa and her studies of citizenship in a plural society have confirmed her commitment to working with others to promote unity in diversity.