

Rep. Ann Wagner, MO-02
Testimony to State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee on Member
Day
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Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Rogers, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. As a former Ambassador and Vice Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I cannot overstate America's centrality in safeguarding human rights, fostering peace, and promoting economic development, trade, and good governance worldwide.

With countries like China and Russia working to undermine democratic values and respect for human rights, American leadership is more important than ever. The U.S.-led international order has helped populations across the globe enjoy safer, more stable, and more prosperous lives, and I believe American diplomatic engagement is critical to leaving a better world for the next generation.

Peace and stability are a prerequisite for prosperity. But as we see in Syria, Burma, and elsewhere, many states are engaged in large-scale violence against their own citizens. The United States has a responsibility to help these vulnerable communities. For that reason, I want to voice my strong support for robust funding for the Complex Crises Fund, or CCF. The CCF is a critical global account that enables the United States to respond swiftly and efficiently to unforeseen crises, filling a gap when other monies are unavailable.

Foreign Service Officers and USAID workers in the field rely on the CCF to mitigate incipient humanitarian crises and prevent conflicts from spinning out of control. And data analysis from the

Institute for Economics and Peace indicates that strong funding for the CCF could actually save taxpayers money in the long run: for every dollar invested now, the cost of conflict would be reduced by 16 dollars. I urge you to fund this account at least at \$30 million dollars in fiscal year 2020.

One of my top priorities in Congress is ending human trafficking, an injustice that has enslaved over 40 million people worldwide. The State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons has been instrumental in building partner nation capacity and incentivizing effective anti-trafficking measures. The TIP Office should work with DOJ in addressing online sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. I urge you to provide robust funding to the TIP Office so it can help improve criminal justice systems and increase prosecutions of traffickers, including sex buyers, in partner nations.

Finally, I ask you to allocate robust funding for democracy programs in Burma. In fiscal year 2019, the National Endowment for Democracy received \$4 million for its activities in Burma. It has used these funds to promote the development of civil society and strengthen democratic institutions. NED is helping to build a Burma in which genocide, brutalities, and rights violations against the country's minorities are unthinkable, and I urge you to continue supporting its mission at *at least* \$4 million.

I ask you to ensure that our assistance to Burma does not in any way make the United States complicit in the appalling crimes the Burmese military has committed against the Rohingya, Shan, Kachin, and other ethnic groups. Last year, the House version of the NDAA included language

limiting security assistance and military cooperation until the Department of State certifies that the Burmese government has held perpetrators accountable for human rights abuses.

I was deeply disappointed that the final NDAA did not include this language, and I hope the SFOPS appropriations bill for FY20 reflects the spirit of those provisions regardless. Members of the Burmese military and government responsible for committing genocide and other crimes against humanity must be held responsible for their actions; the Burmese military should not receive one cent of U.S. foreign military financing until it takes action to end and atone for egregious human rights abuses. Moreover, the U.S. must practice tremendous caution in engaging with the Burmese government, which has clearly been complicit in corruption, crimes against ethnic minorities, and bad governance. Any aid to Burma should boost civil society and pro-democracy groups that are committed to fundamental human rights, religious and ethnic reconciliation, freedom of expression, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion.

America excels at helping our partners build capacity, good governance practices, and democratic institutions. Democratizing and developing countries want—and need—us to remain a reliable partner. I hope this subcommittee will support robust funding for pro-democracy, anti-trafficking, and conflict prevention programming, in addition to programming that builds professionalism and capacity of criminal justice systems around the world. Thank you for your hard work on these issues.