

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

## Addressing Entities of Particular Concern: Non-State Actors and Egregious Violations of Religious Freedom



**Aaron Zelin** is the Levy Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where he also directs the Islamic State Worldwide Activity Map project. Zelin is also a Visiting Research Scholar in the Department of Politics at Brandeis University, an Affiliate with the Global Peace and Security Centre at Monash University, and Founder of the widely acclaimed website Jihadology. He is author of the book Your Sons Are At Your Service: Tunisia's Missionaries of Jihad (Columbia University Press), which was nominated for the Neave Memorial Book Prize in 2020. Zelin's second book The Age of Political Jihadism: A Study of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (Rowman and Littlefield) was published in August 2023. He is currently working on a third book tentatively titled Heartland of the Believers: A History of Syrian

Jihadism. Zelin's research focuses on Sunni jihadi groups in the Levant, North Africa, Afghanistan, and the Sahel as well as the trend of jihadi governance, online mobilization, and foreign fighting. He has conducted field research in Tunisia, Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel. Zelin has also testified and served as an expert witness in front of Congress and in judicial cases.



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**Haris Tarin** is the Vice President of Policy and Programming at the Muslim Public Affairs Council. Tarin has a wealth of experience from his decadelong experience in federal government having served in multiple roles at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including as senior policy advisor on immigration, civil rights, civil liberties, and national security. Tarin most recently was the Chief of Staff of Operation Allies Welcome, the largest US evacuation and refugee resettlement program in our nation's history.