

ROLLING BACK AUTHORITARIANISM

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Participant biographies

Abbasali Haji, MD, East Africa Capital, Tanzania

Abbasali Haji has worked for a broad range of financial institutions in London within the corporate finance sector - specialising in Mergers and Acquisitions, Private Equity and Equity Capital Markets. He is based in East Africa and has a wealth of knowledge operating in the region across a spectrum of industries.

Aldoberta Costa Júnior, Leader, Unita, Angola

Adalberto Costa Junior is an Angolan politician, current President of UNITA and a member of the National Assembly of Angola. He has campaigned against public corruption. He was the godson of Jonas Savimbi. In November 2019, Aldoberta was elected President of UNITA, ending Isaias Samakuva's 16-year term.

Alexander Kambili, Founding Chairperson, Umodzi wa a Malawi in Germany (UMG), Germany

Alexander Kambili is the founding Chairperson of the first Malawian Diaspora Association, *Umodzi wa a Malawi in Germany* (UMG).

Alfonso de Prat Gay, Former Minister of the Economy, Argentina

Alfonso de Prat Gay is a former Minister of the Treasury and Public Finances of Argentina. He currently sits on the Board of the President Foundation. He was President of the Central Bank of Argentina from December 2002 to September 2004 and was elected National Deputy for the Civic Coalition in the 2009 elections.

Amgad Faried Eltayeb Idris, CEO, Fikra Center for Studies and Development, Egypt

Amgad Faried Eltayeb Idris is the CEO of Fikra Center for Studies and Development, an organization that aims to expand the frontiers of knowledge and facilitate political and social transformation by redefining discourse on public matters. He previously served in the position of Assistant Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Sudan, Dr. Abdalla Hamdok.

Anwar El-Sadat, Leader, Reform and Development Party, Egypt

Anwar El-Sadat is an Egyptian politician and one of the leaders of the Reform and Development Party.

Arkadiusz Modrzejewski, Professor & Director, Institute of Political Sciences, University of Gdansk, Poland

Arkadiusz Modrzejewski is a Professor and Director at the Institute of Political Sciences, University of Gdansk, Poland. He specialises in political philosophy and thought and religious and cultural studies. He is an editor in chief of *European Journal of Transformation Studies*.

Artis Pabriks, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Latvia

Artis Pabriks is a Latvian politician. Since January 2019, he has been Latvia's Minister for Defence and Deputy Prime Minister. From 2014 to 2018, he was a Member of the European Parliament.

Atupele Muluzi, Former President, United Democratic Front, Malawi

Atupele Muluzi is a Malawian politician, businessman and was a Member of Parliament for Machinga North East constituency from 2004 until May 27, 2019. He was also the President of the United Democratic Front and a presidential candidate during the 2019 election.

Basil Kerski, Director, The European Solidarity Centre

Basil Kerski is a German-Polish manager of culture, editor, publicist, and political scientist. He is the director of the European Solidarity Centre in Gdansk and editor-in-chief of *Dialog*, a Polish-German bilingual monthly magazine. He is also the Vice-Chair of the Academic Committee of the House of European History in Brussels. Author of German, Polish and Ukrainian books analysing history and politics.

Bobi Wine, Leader, National Unity Platform, Uganda

Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, known by his stage name, Bobi Wine, is a Ugandan politician, activist, singer, actor, businessman and philanthropist. As of 11 July 2017, he serves as a member of parliament representing Kyadondo East constituency in Wakiso District in Uganda's Central Region. He leads the National Unity Platform.



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Bogdan Lis, Chairman of the ECS Council, Poland

Bogdan Lis is the Chairman of the ECS Council, one of the Solidarity leaders, signatory of the Gdansk Agreement of August 1980. After the introduction of martial law in Poland, organiser of the Solidarity underground. Participant of the Round Table, former senator and member of Polish Parliament.

Branko Brkic, Editor-in-Chief, Daily Maverick, South Africa

Branko Brkic is the Editor-in-Chief of Daily Maverick, South Africa's leading independent media organisation. He started his career by publishing science fiction books in 1984 in then Yugoslavia. Over time, he went from being a project-based book publisher to starting Yugoslavia's biggest privately-owned publishing house, where he published 62 books.

Christopher Clapham, Professor Emeritus, COAS, Cambridge, UK

Christopher S. Clapham is a British Africanist and political scientist. He studied at Lancaster University and was a senior lecturer in politics (1974-89) and a professor of politics and international relations (1989-2002) there. Since 2002, Clapham has been an emeritus professor at the Centre of African Studies of Cambridge University. He served as the editor of the Journal of Modern African Studies from 1997 up to 2012. He was the President of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom from 1992 to 1994.

Cynthia Appenteng, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Foundation, Liberia

Cynthia Appenteng is the Director of Partnerships and Resource Mobilization at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development. Before joining the EJS Center, Cynthia worked with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), leading their partnerships and fundraising strategy.

Daniel Pinhasi, Business Development – Africa, Green 2000, Israel

Daniel Pinhasi is a former Israeli ambassador. He currently serves as the Business Development – Africa Head for Green 2000.

David Gregosz, Director, KAS, Poland

David Gregosz is the Director of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Office in Poland.

Franco Moccia, President, Fundacion Pensar, Argentina

Franco Moccia is the President of the *Fundacion Pensar*, an organization that designs government plans and public policies with a vision to transform Argentina with real solutions.

Gloria Uwishema Nsengiyumva, Human Rights activist, Rwanda

Gloria Nsengiyumva, is a human rights activist through different organisations including All For Rwanda (AFR), an organisation that advocates for the safe and dignified return of all Rwandan refugees, particularly those facing challenging circumstances in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the International Women Network for Democracy and Peace (IWNDP). She is also the Strategic Sourcing Specialist at Air Products B.V.

Gregor Jaecke, Resident Representative, KAS, South Africa

Gregor Jaecke is the Resident Representative of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Office in South Africa.

Greg Mills, Director, The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa

Greg Mills is the Director of the Brenthurst Foundation. Through the Brenthurst Foundation, he has directed numerous reform projects with African heads of government, including Ghana, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Somaliland, South Africa and Zambia. In 2022, he was appointed to the Advisory Panel of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Dr Mills is the author of many books, including *Expensive Poverty: Why Aid Fails and How It Can Work* and *The Ledger: Accounting for Failure in Afghanistan*.

Gregory Nemyria, Deputy Chair, Foreign Relations Committee, Rada, Ukraine

Gregory Nemyria is a Ukrainian politician and First Deputy Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Verkhovna Rada. He served as Deputy Prime Minister in the government of Prime Minister Tymoshenko (2007-2010) and was co-chairman of the Ukraine-China Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation.



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Holger Dix, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Germany

Dr Holger Dix is Head of the regional program Political Dialogue Sub-Saharan Africa and interim head of the South Africa office of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Germany. Formerly the Resident Representative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung office for Tunisia and Algeria. He completed his doctoral thesis at the Westfälische-Wilhelms-University of Münster in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Ian Khama, Former President, Botswana

Ian Khama is a Botswana politician and former military officer who was the fourth President of the Republic of Botswana from 1 April 2008 to 1 April 2018. After serving as Commander of the Botswana Defence Force, he entered politics and was Vice-President of Botswana from 1998 to 2008, then succeeded Festus Mogae as President on 1 April 2008. He won a full term in the 2009 election and was re-elected in October 2014.

Ibrahim Al-bakri Nyei, Director, Ducor ISER, Liberia

Ibrahim Al-Bakri Nyei is a Liberian researcher and political analyst at the Ducor Institute for Social and Economic Research in Liberia and a fellow at the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) West Africa in Nigeria.

Ivone Soares, Member of Parliament, RENAMO, Mozambique

Ivone Soares is a Mozambican politician and Member of Parliament, an University Lecturer of Political Science and International Relations, a published poet, a media commentator, and a newspapers columnist. Since 2020 she has served in the Mozambican parliament as Vice President of the Ethics Committee. She previously served as the RENAMO party Chief whip.

Janusz Lewandowski, Member of the European Parliament, fmr Privatisation Minister, Poland

Janusz Lewandowski is a Polish politician and economist belonging to the Gdansk liberals group, and a member of the European Parliament. He served as the Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, among others. He was also a former privatisation minister in Poland.

Jawar Mohammed, Founder, Oromia Media Network, Ethiopia

Jawar Mohammed is an Ethiopian political analyst and activist. One of the founders of the Oromia Media Network (OMN), Jawar was a leading organizer of the 2014-2016 Oromo protests.

Jędrzej Czerep, Head, Polish Institute of International Affairs, Poland

Jędrzej Czerep is an analyst for Sub-Saharan Africa in the Middle East and Africa program. He has collaborated with think tanks (K. Pulaski Foundation, Royal United Services Institute), international organizations (Council of Europe), media (Al-Jazeera, The Guardian), and administration (Office for Foreigners, Border Guard). He has conducted research in South Sudan (2011), Nigeria (2015), Tanzania (2018), and Sudan (2019).

John Githongo, CEO, Inuka, Kenya

John Githongo is the CEO of Inuka, an NGO involved in governance issues in Kenya. He formerly served as Chairman of the Africa Institute for Governing with Integrity, Executive Vice-Chair of the Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA), and Chair board member of the Africa Centre for Open Governance (AFRICOG). He has also served as a board member of the Kenya Human Rights Commission.

John Steenhuisen, Leader, Democratic Alliance, South Africa

John Steenhuisen is a South African politician who has served as Leader of the Opposition since October 2019 and has been the leader of the Democratic Alliance since November 2020, having served as the interim leader for one year from November 2019. He was chief whip of the official opposition from May 2014 until October 2019.

Juan Carlos Pinzón, Former Defence Minister & Ambassador of Colombia to the United States, Colombia

Juan Carlos Pinzón Bueno is a Colombian diplomat, politician and economist. He is the current Ambassador of Colombia to the United States and former Minister of Defence. Under his leadership as Minister of Defence, the armed forces dealt the most severe blows to terrorist organizations and criminal bands, highly degrading their capabilities, structure, and leadership. This resulted in improved security conditions throughout the country and the lowest homicide rate in 35 years.



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**Kacper Dziekan, International Projects Main Specialist,
The European Solidarity Centre, Poland**

Kacper Dziekan is a historian, and Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies scholar. A member of an International Relations Team at the European Solidarity Centre. Doctor at the Faculty of History of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. Works on educational, cultural, social, historical and civic projects, especially with regard to the former Soviet Union.

Kate Almquist, Senior Advisor, WestExec Advisors, US

Kate Almquist is an independent consultant and former Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an academic institution within the U.S. Department of Defence. As an independent consultant, Kate advises on organisational strategy and programmatic design, U.S. foreign assistance, conflict mediation and management, security sector reform, and African affairs.

**Khemaies Jhinaoui, Former Foreign Affairs Minister,
Tunisia**

Khemaies Jhinaoui is a Tunisian diplomat who served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia from 2016 to 2019. Jhinaoui served as Ambassador to Russia and Ukraine from December 2001 to June 2011.

**Kizza Besigye, President, Forum for Democratic Change,
Uganda**

Kizza Besigye is a Ugandan physician, politician, and former military officer in the Uganda People's Defence Force. He served as the President of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) political party and was an unsuccessful candidate in Uganda's 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016 presidential elections.

Lech Wałęsa, Former President, Poland

Lech Wałęsa is a Polish statesman, dissident, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who served as the President of Poland between 1990 and 1995. After winning the 1990 election, Wałęsa became Poland's first democratically elected President since 1926 and the first-ever Polish President elected by popular vote. Wałęsa became the leader of the Solidarity movement and led a successful pro-democratic effort, which in 1989 ended Communist rule in Poland and ushered in the end of the Cold War.

**Leila Jack, Programme Manager,
The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa**

Leila Jack is the Programme Manager at the Brenthurst Foundation. Before joining the Foundation, she worked at the then-University of Natal's International Office before joining the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) as the Programme Manager and Assistant to the National Director and later as the Director of Operations.

Leopoldo Lopèz, Opposition Leader, Venezuela

Leopoldo Mendoza is a Venezuelan opposition leader. He co-founded the political party Primero Justicia in 2000 and was elected mayor of the Chacao Municipality of Caracas in the regional elections held in July 2000. He is the National Coordinator of another political party, Voluntad Popular, which he founded in 2009. He fled Venezuela in October 2020.

**Luis Franceschi, Assistant Secretary General,
The Commonwealth, UK**

Luis Franceschi is the Assistant Secretary General of the Commonwealth. He coordinates the Political, Democracy, Electoral, Public Sector Governance, Good Offices, Rule of Law, Judicial Transformation, Human Rights, and Countering Violence and Extremism work in the 56 member countries. He is also the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting – CHOGM Conference Secretary.

**Macdella Cooper, Political Leader,
Movement for One Liberia**

MacDella Cooper is a Liberian politician and philanthropist. She is the Standard Bearer of The Movement for One Liberia (MOL) political party. Cooper worked as an international businesswoman for several years before founding the MacDella Cooper Foundation, the MacDella Cooper Academy, and the Movement for One Liberia political party.



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**Magdalena Charkin-Jaszczka,
ECS director representative for International Relations,
The European Solidarity Centre**

Magdalena Charkin-Jaszczka is a sociologist and communication specialist. Representative of the ECS director for international affairs and protocol, head of the International Team. Responsible for building relations and cooperation with partners internationally. Develops and implements projects on the politics of remembrance and building awareness of international solidarity.

**Marcos Peña, former Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers,
Argentina**

Marcos Peña was Argentina's chief of the cabinet of ministers. Previously, he served as secretary general of the City of Buenos Aires government. Peña was also a deputy in the City of Buenos Aires legislature between 2003 and 2007, representing the political party Propuesta Republicana (PRO), and was secretary general of the City of Buenos Aires government between 2007 and 2015.

**Marie-Noelle Nwokolo, Senior Researcher,
The Brenthurst Foundation, Ghana**

Marie-Noelle Nwokolo is a Researcher at the Brenthurst Foundation. Her work primarily focuses on the political economy of development in Africa – governance, economic diversification, policy strategizing, and how decisions are made and not made. She currently hosts, creates and produces the Brenthurst Foundation podcast. Marie-Noelle holds a Master's degree in Development Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science (L.S.E.).

**McHenry Venaani, President,
Popular Democratic Movement, Namibia**

McHenry Venaani is a Namibian politician, President of the Popular Democratic Movement and member of the pan-African parliamentary committee on trade and immigration. Venaani has been a member of the National Assembly from 2002 to 2010, in 2014, and since 2015. At the time of his appointment in 2002, he was Namibia's youngest MP.

**Mpumelelo Mkhabela, Former Editor,
Sunday Independent, South Africa**

Mpumelelo Mkhabela is the former editor of the Sunday Independent and Daily Dispatch newspapers in South Africa. He is a political analyst and newspaper columnist.

Moeketsi Majoro, former Prime Minister, Lesotho

Moeketsi Majoro is a former Prime Minister of Lesotho and a former Former Minister of Finance and Development Planning in Lesotho. He also formerly served as a senator and the minister of Development Planning from 2013 to 2015. Before joining the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho as Minister and MP, he served as executive director at the International Monetary Fund representing 21 African countries on the Executive Board (2008-2012).

**Oleksandr Plodysti, General Consul, Embassy of Ukraine,
Poland**

Oleksandr Plodysti is the current Consul General at the Consulate of Ukraine in Gdansk, Poland.

**Oleksandra Matviichuk,
Ukraine's Center for Civil Liberties, Ukraine**

Oleksandra Matviichuk is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, a Ukrainian human rights lawyer and civil society leader based in Kyiv. She heads the non-profit organization Centre for Civil Liberties and is an active campaigner for democratic reforms in her country and the OSCE region.

Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President, Nigeria

Olusegun Obasanjo is a former President of Nigeria. With more than 30 books in print covering various topics, he pursues a passion for conflict resolution, mediation and development through multiple institutions. In addition, President Obasanjo has a distinguished military career, including serving in the 1957 U.N. Peacekeeping Mission to Congo and receiving the instrument of surrender on behalf of the Nigerian Government from the opposing forces in the Nigerian Civil War in 1970. He currently serves as the A.U High Representative for the Horn of Africa region, among other positions, including Board Chairman of the Brenthurst Foundation.



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Omer Ismail, Former Foreign Affairs Minister, Sudan

Omer Gamar-Eldin Ismail is the Prime Minister's Advisor for Global Partnerships and former Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs in Sudan. He currently works as Senior Policy Adviser to several agencies working in crisis management and conflict resolution in Africa and serves as adviser to the President of Sudan.

Paula Cristina Roque, Political Affairs Analyst, Portugal

Paula Cristina Roque has spent 20 years working on conflict analysis and human security in Africa. In 2020 she set up Changes for Humanity, an organization supporting transformative people to people solutions at a community level in Africa, Latin America and South East Asia. Paula has been an adviser on sub-Saharan Africa for the Crisis Management Initiative, a senior analyst for Southern Africa with the International Crisis Group, and a senior researcher with the Institute for Security Studies.

Raila Odinga, Former Prime Minister, Kenya

Raila Odinga is a Kenyan politician who served as the Prime Minister of Kenya from 2008 to 2013. He served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Langata Constituency from 1992 to 2013 and has been the Leader of the Opposition in Kenya since 2013. He is the leader of Azimio la Umoja-One Kenya Coalition Party.

Ray Hartley, Research Director, The Brenthurst Foundation, South Africa

Ray formerly served as editor of South African newspapers and online publications, including the Sunday Times, The Times, Rand Daily Mail and BusinessLIVE. He was an anti-apartheid activist in the United Democratic Front while serving on the executive of the National Union of South African Students. He later worked for the Human Awareness Programme, an NGO that provided activists with training and advice.

Roelf Meyer, CEO, In Transformation, South Africa

Roelf was intimately involved in settling the South African conflict as Chief Negotiator for the National Party Government. After the 1994 elections, Meyer continued in his post of Minister of Constitutional Affairs in the Cabinet of President Nelson Mandela. He now serves as C.E.O. of In Transformation, which promotes the principles of the South African peacemaking model to support, advise and assist democratic transitions and resolution of conflicts in Africa and worldwide.

Roland Freudenstein, Vice-President, Globsec, Belgium

Roland Freudenstein is Vice President and Head of GLOBSEC Brussels. Previously and since 2008, he was Policy Director of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, the think tank of the European People's Party in Brussels. Previously active in the think tank world (German Council on Foreign Relations), global democracy support (Konrad Adenauer Foundation) and public service (European Commission and Hamburg State Government).

Sanyaolu Ayowole Oluwajuwon, African Action Congress, Nigeria

Sanyaolu Ayowole Oluwajuwon is with the African Action Congress (AAC), a left-wing, Nigerian political party created by a Nigerian 2019 presidential aspirant and Publisher at Sahara Reporters, Omoyele Sowore.

Tundu Lissu, MP, CHADEMA, Tanzania

Tundu Lissu is a Tanzanian lawyer, presidential candidate, former Member of Parliament, and deputy chairperson of the Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA) party in Tanzania. Tundu is also the Former President of the Tanganyika Law Society.



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Velenkosini Hlabisa, President, Inkatha Freedom Party, South Africa

Velenkosini Fiki Hlabisa MPL is a South African politician and former teacher who has been the President of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and the Leader of the fourth-largest political party in the Republic of South Africa and the Official Opposition in the KwaZulu-Natal since 2019. While studying at the University of Zululand, he became a founding member and first Chairperson of the South African Democratic Students' Movement at the University.

Venâncio Mondlane, MP, RENAMO, Mozambique

Venâncio Mondlane is an Mozambican member of parliament with the RENAMO party. He formerly served as the rapporteur of the parliamentary group of the opposition Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM).

Yulia Tymoshenko, former Prime Minister, Ukraine

Yulia Tymoshenko is a Ukrainian politician. She co-led the Orange Revolution and was the first woman appointed Prime Minister of Ukraine, serving from 24 January to 8 September 2005, and again from December 2007 to March 2010. She trained as an engineer and economist in the East and, when the Soviet Union broke up, sought to take advantage of the business opportunities that emerged. In the mid-1990s, she formed United Energy Systems of Ukraine, which helped supply gas to Ukraine's huge industrial base.

Zitto Kabwe, Leader, ACT-Wazalendo, Tanzania

Zitto Kabwe is a Tanzanian politician who serves as the leader of the opposition party, Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo). He served as a two-term Parliament Member for the Kigoma North constituency from 2005 to 2015. He was also the Chairman of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (P.A.C.) and the chair of the parliamentary standing committee, where he oversaw more than 250 State-Owned Companies.



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