Karen Young

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Dr. Karen E. Young is a political economist focusing on the Gulf, the broader MENA region and the intersection of energy, finance and security. She is a Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University in the Center on Global Energy Policy and is a lecturer in the School of International Public Affairs. She was founding director of the Program on Economics and Energy at the Middle East Institute, where she remains a non-resident senior fellow. Dr. Young was a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, and has been a professorial lecturer at George Washington University, teaching courses on the international relations of the Middle East. She regularly teaches at the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Institute. Earlier, she was Senior Resident Scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute and a Research Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Middle East Centre. Dr. Young led a seminar series on emerging markets in MENA at Johns Hopkins SAIS. At the American University of Sharjah, she served as Assistant Professor of Political Science from 2009-2014. Prior to joining AUS, she held research and administration roles at New York University.

Dr. Young is the author of two books, editor of two, and a chapter contributor to seven other books. Her second book, The Economic Statecraft of the Gulf Arab States: Deploying Aid, Investment and Development Across MENAP, was published at the end of 2022 with IB Tauris/Bloomsbury. Her first book, The Political Economy of Energy, Finance and Security in the United Arab Emirates: Between the Majilis and the Market, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2014. She has published articles in the Financial Times, Bloomberg, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Barron's, Lawfare, Al Monitor, ORIENT, Oxford Analytica, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, the Conservative Middle East Council, The National and Gulf News, Journal of Arabian Studies, Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, Current History, Gulf Affairs, Security Dialogue, Internationale Politik and Middle East Policy, among many academic and analytical outlets.

She holds a PhD in Political Science from the City University of New York Graduate Center, an MA in Political Science from Columbia University, an MA in International Economics from the Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar in Quito and a BA in Anthropology from Wellesley College. She is an elected life member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Dr. Young has not previously testified before the Commission.