

NOUVEL HAY MAGAZINE

SANS FRONTIÈRES

6 nov. 2022 : table ronde





Table ronde de l'Institut ARPA
 RÉSERVEZ LA DATE : Table ronde sur l'ARPA, 6 novembre à 10h00 (heure du Pacifique)
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Veuillez assister à la table ronde sur
 "Sécurité nationale et droit international pour l'Arménie et l'Artsakh"
 Hon. Armen Grigoryan, secrétaire du Conseil de sécurité d'Arménie, juge Gassia Apkarian, avocat international Karnig Kerkonian et historien Vahagn Avedian
 Modérateur : Prof. Nerses Kopyalyan
 dimanche 6 novembre 2022 à 10h00, PDT



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ARPA Institute Panel Discussion
 "National Security and International Law for Armenia and Artsakh"
 Armen Grigoryan, Gassia Apkarian, Karnig Kerkonian and Vahagn Avedian
 Moderator: Nerses Kopyalyan
Sunday, November 6, 2022 @ 10:00 am, PDT

Abstract: There are two seemingly contradicting principles for resolving territorial conflicts: territorial integrity versus peoples' right for self-determination. Which, according to international law are not contradicting. The EU and the US, as part of the OSCE Minsk Group have become more active, but Azerbaijan's autocratic leadership is pushing for dismantling the group. One reason is the recent statements by both EU and US officials about Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians' right for self-determination. But is it vehemently rejecting this right, while some are pushing for Nagorno-Karabakh autonomy, while guaranteeing minority rights of the population of the region in a "multi-ethnic Azerbaijan". The latter is substantiated by the principle of territorial integrity, especially since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, following the OSCE Charter and considering the state of democracy in Azerbaijan, one can argue that remedial succession based on peoples' right for self-determination is highly justified in the case of Nagorno-Karabakh and is the only viable solution for the conflict in accordance to existing norms and past precedent.

Armen Grigoryan was born in Martuni, Artsakh, where after graduating from the Miroshnichenko School he was admitted in the International Relations Faculty of the Yerevan State University. In 2009 he was admitted in the American University of Armenia, where he graduated in 2011 with a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations. In 2012 he worked as head of Civil Society Issues in Counterpart International and in 2015 he joined Transparency International Anticorruption Center as the coordinator for elections issues. He has been serving as the Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia since 2018.

The Honorable Gassia Apkarian is a Judge of the Superior Court of California since 2014, in the County of Orange. She was born in Aleppo in 1987 and grew up in Lebanon. Apkarian immigrated to the United States at the age of 16, received her high school diploma in Irvine, California, and then graduated with a BA in political science, minoring in Russian, from the University of California, Irvine. Gassia received her JD from the University of LaVerne, College of Law and moved to Armenia as the Country Director for the Armenian Assembly of America. Hon. Apkarian came back to the US as Special Assistant to Ambassador Ruben Seifarian in the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, continued as the Executive Director of Democracy 2000, a progressive PAC, Chaired by Vice President Al Gore. Upon a request from the Kocharyan Administration, she returned to Armenia with her young family to serve as special assistant. Soon after the Parliamentary elections in Armenia, Gassia returned to California to pursue her legal career as Deputy Public Defender. In 2008 she started her own law firm Apkarian Defense, APC gaining extensive experience in criminal law. Days after the ceasefire of the 44-day War in Artsakh, she helped establish the Center for Truth and Justice, teaching young law students and lawyers in Armenia and Artsakh how to collect testimonial evidence on war crimes. Judge Apkarian was awarded the 2022 Alisa Wilkin Humanitarian Award by both the California Judges and the Wilkin Foundations.

Karnig Kerkonian is an international lawyer and experienced litigator. He currently leads the international and federal practice groups at Kerkonian Dighe LLP. Karnig has an A.B. in Government from Harvard University and law degrees, a J.D. from the University of Chicago and a post-doctoral Diploma in Public International Law from Cambridge University, England, under James H. Crawford, Jr. Kerkonian in 2003.

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ARPA Institute Panel Discussion
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 Vahagn Avedian and Nerses Kopyalyan
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Vahagn Avedian has a PhD in History and is a peace and conflict researcher focusing on human rights and democracy. His research has been on the legacy of the Armenian Genocide, its politics of memory, its impact on both the perpetrator and the victim, the negotiations and the reconciliation process as well as international law and its political aspects. Avedian also studies post-conflict societies, how they are affected by the conflict, the viable path towards a sustainable solution and the role of the international community. One such case is the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, impacting the region, their democratic and judicial systems, respectively, as well as the role of the international community. Vahagn's forthcoming book, Roadmap to an Endless A. Theory of Collective Reconciliation: A Trinity of Recognition, Responsibility and Reparation.

Dr. Nerses Kopyalyan is an assistant professor-in-residence of Political Science at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His fields of specialization include international relations, geopolitics, political theory, and philosophy of science. He has conducted extensive research on identity, superpower relations, and security studies. He is the author of *World Political Systems After Putin* (Routledge, 2017) and the co-author of *Sea, Power, Reef Politics* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). He also authored two policy papers for the Republic of Armenia, "Transitional Justice Agenda for the Republic of Armenia" (Ministry of Justice) and "Changing the Paradigm in Armenia-Diaspora Relations: Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs". He serves as an advisor to the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs. His current research concentrates on geopolitical and great power relations with an emphasis on Eurasia. He has also done extensive work on political developments in Armenia prior and subsequent to the Velvet Revolution, articles of which are published with EURI Report.

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