CENTER FOR TRUTH & JUSTICE

CFTJ'S FIFTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

VOICES AGAINST ERASURE:

VICTIMS OF ATROCITY CRIMES IN AN AGE OF IMPUNITY

IN COLLABORATION WITH

AUA American University *of* Armenia

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 13-14, 2026

AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA (AUA)
YEREVAN, REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

CFTJUSTICE.ORG

Across the world, victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other forms of mass violence continue to face a profound paradox: while international law increasingly recognizes their rights, many remain unheard, unacknowledged, or excluded from meaningful justice processes. Survivors often continue to live with displacement, loss, trauma, denial, and prolonged uncertainty long after violence has formally ended. Over the past three decades, international and domestic prosecutions, truth-seeking mechanisms, reparations programs, and other accountability initiatives have sought to respond to atrocity crimes.

Yet for many victims, justice remains partial, delayed, selective, or absent, and legal proceedings may fail to address expectations of recognition, dignity, truth, participation, and redress. Contemporary conflicts continue to create new victims across regions including Nagorno-Karabakh, Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Gaza, and Israel. In contrast, survivors of earlier atrocities in Rwanda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, and among the Yazidi community continue to confront the long-term consequences of violence. These challenges are compounded by political realities in which peace negotiations, geopolitical settlements, reconstruction efforts, and normalization processes may move forward without meaningful victim participation, leaving justice and accountability as secondary or negotiable concerns.

Against this backdrop, the international conference Voices Against Erasure: Victims of Atrocity Crimes in an Age of Impunity seeks to center victims in discussions of accountability, justice, memory, and peacebuilding. Rather than viewing victims solely as witnesses in legal proceedings or passive beneficiaries of institutional responses, the conference recognizes them as agents of memory, knowledge, resilience, and moral authority whose experiences should inform how justice is understood and pursued.

Bringing together survivors, victim representatives, legal practitioners, psychologists, policymakers, scholars, and civil society actors, the conference provides a comparative and interdisciplinary platform for examining the promises and limitations of international justice, the long-term consequences of trauma and denial, recognition and reparations, and the risks that arise when political expediency overshadows accountability. At its core, the conference rests on a simple premise: victims must not remain peripheral to discussions about justice. In an era of geopolitical fragmentation and selective accountability, listening to victims remains indispensable to any meaningful pursuit of truth, justice, dignity, and sustainable peace.



DIGITAL EXHIBITION
DOCUMENTING TRUTH, PRESERVING MEMORY

Complementing the conference's central theme, this digital exhibition features selected testimonies, documentary videos, and visual presentations from the Center for Truth and Justice. Displayed across six screens, these materials explore victims' and survivors' experiences, the documentation of atrocity crimes, and the significance of historical memory. The exhibition highlights how testimony and documentation challenge erasure, preserve truth, and advance justice and accountability.

Location: The Bridge, AUA (Please follow the directional signs to The Bridge to explore the exhibition.)



THE VR EXPERIENCE

CREATED BY UPSTREAM INTERNATIONAL. FOUNDED AND DEVELOPED BY RYAN D'SOUZA AND DIJON DAJEE.

The immersive exhibition's centerpiece is a groundbreaking virtual reality experience: Nobody's Listening: The Forgotten Voices of Sinjar. This room-scale interactive experience transports viewers to northern Iraq using a blend of 360-degree documentary filmmaking, stunning Yazidi artwork, and the latest virtual reality technology. A unique branching narrative set in Kocho village, Sinjar, enables users to hear from a young Yazidi woman abducted and sexually enslaved by ISIS, from her brother who survives a massacre, and from an ISIS fighter who attacks the village.

You can experience this 12-minute VR journey in the Faculty Lounge.
Please ask one of our volunteers for assistance.

Learn more at www.nobodys-listening.com/exhibition

NOBODY'S LISTENING

WINNER VR AWARDS VR SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD 2022

UP STREAM

LAW WITHOUT ILLUSIONS
ARMENIA'S PAST, MISSED OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE REAL POSSIBILITIES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW



By Gurgen Petrossian | In partnership with the Center for Truth and Justice (CFTJ)

Does international law truly protect small states, or do power and geopolitics always prevail? In this compelling analysis, international criminal law expert Gurgen Petrossian explores how Armenia can move beyond systemic limitations and leverage international law as a real instrument of statecraft.

Tracing Armenia's legal history from the Armenian Genocide and the Treaty of Sèvres to Armenia's independence, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the International Criminal Court, and contemporary developments, Petrossian examines Armenia's journey through international law, highlighting missed opportunities and the challenges that lie ahead.

The book will be available for purchase on the ground floor of the AUA Paramaz Avedisian Building, next to the CFTJ registration desk.

Newmag LLC holds the publishing rights to this book.

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DAY 1

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026

EXPERIENCING HARM, LIVING WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES

09:30 – 09:50 REGISTRATION – OPEN TO ALL

09:50 – 10:30 OPENING REMARKS



THE HONORABLE GASSIA APKARIAN
Judge, Superior Court of California



DR. GURGEN PETROSSIAN
Senior Officer for International Criminal Law, International Nuremberg Principles Academy
The launch of a new book available at the Conference
Law Without Illusions: Armenia's Past, Missed Opportunities, and the Real Possibilities of International Law



EMILYA OHANYAN
Descendant of a victim of the Armenian Genocide

10:30 – 11:00 KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DR. YAEL DANIELI
Founder & Executive Director, International Center for the Study, Treatment and Prevention of Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma



GOR MNATSAKANYAN, ESQ. MODERATOR
President, CFTJ Board of Directors

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DAY 1

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026

11:00 – 12:30 **PANEL I:**
ATROCITY AND SURVIVAL ACROSS CONFLICTS



ELIZABETH ATIENO TAWO
Kenya (Remote)



DR. SARKAWT JALIL
Kurdistan Region - Iraq



SVETLANA HARUTYUNYAN
Nagorno-Karabakh



ZAINUL MUSTAFA
Myanmar



THOMAS BECKER
Occupied Palestinian Territories



REUBEN BUHARI
Nigeria



THE HONORABLE GASSIA APKARIAN MODERATOR
Judge, Superior Court of California

12:30 – 13:40 **LUNCH BREAK (FACULTY LOUNGE, PAB)**

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DAY 1
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026

13:40 – 15:00 **PANEL II:**
THE SEARCH FOR JUSTICE AMID ONGOING VIOLENCE



NATIA NAVROUZOV
Executive Director, Yazda



DR. PHILIPP AMBACH (REMOTE)
Chief, Victims Participation and Reparations Section at the International Criminal Court (ICC)



GABRIELA RADU
Legal Researcher, T.M.C. Asser Instituut



DR. YEGHISHE KIRAKOSYAN
Associate Professor; Director, International Courts and Arbitration LLM Program, Yerevan State University
Managing Partner, Equity Law Partners



DR. GURGEN PETROSSIAN MODERATOR
Senior Officer for International Criminal Law, International Nuremberg Principles Academy

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15:00 – 15:20 **COFFEE BREAK (FACULTY LOUNGE, PAB)**

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DAY 1

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026

15:20 – 16:50

PANEL III: TRAUMA, MEMORY, AND THE COST OF BEING UNHEARD



DAVIT GEVORGYAN
Head, YSU Center of Applied Psychology;
President & Co-founder, Armenian Association of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy



THIKRAN MATO
Director, Nobody's Listening



DR. YAEL DANIELI
Founder & CEO, International Center for the Study, Treatment and Prevention of Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma



ARA GHAZARYAN
Founder, "ARA GHAZARYAN" Law Office



DR. PABLO GAVIRA DÍAZ
Project Officer, International Nuremberg Principles Academy



MISCHA GUREGHIAN HALL MODERATOR
Defense Legal Associate, Kosovo Specialist Chambers

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DAY 2

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

JUSTICE, LIMITATIONS, AND CONTEMPORARY REALITIES

10:00 – 10:30 **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



NICHOLAS KOUMJIAN
Head, UN Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM)



THE HONORABLE GASSIA APKARIAN MODERATOR
Judge, Superior Court of California

10:30 – 11:50 **PANEL IV: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE UNDER STRAIN**



STEFAN WAESPI
Former International Investigation Judge, Special Criminal Court (Central African Republic); Former Senior Trial Attorney, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY); Former Federal Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland (OAG)



CHRISTIAN MKHITARYAN
Attorney at Law, Mkhitaryan Law Firm (Aschaffenburg)
Co-Founder, German-Armenian Lawyers' Association (DEARJV)



PROFESSOR DR. HILDE FARTHOFER
Associate Professor, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)



SIRANUSH SAHAKYAN
President, International and Comparative Law Center



GEVORG VARDANYAN, ESQ. MODERATOR
CFTJ Conference Chair & Member of Board of Directors

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DAY 2

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

11:50 – 13:00 **LUNCH BREAK (AUA MAIN BUILDING ALBERT & TERRY BEZJIAN CAFETERIA)**

13:00 – 14:20 **PANEL V: RECOGNITION, REPARATIONS, AND THE LIMITS OF REDRESS**



PROFESSOR DR. LUKE MOFFETT
Chair, Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law,
Queen's University Belfast



HUWAIDA ARRAF
Palestinian American civil and human rights attorney
Co-founder, International Solidarity Movement (ISM)



JOSEPH SCHECHLA
Founder & Coordinator, Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN),
Habitat International Coalition



LUSINE SARGSYAN
Human Rights Coordinator - Refugees' Rights Specialist
Democracy Development Foundation (DDF)



DR. YEGHISHE KIRAKOSYAN MODERATOR
Associate Professor; Director, International Courts and Arbitration LLM Program, Yerevan State University
Managing Partner, Equity Law Partners

14:20 – 14:40 **COFFEE BREAK (FACULTY LOUNGE, PAB)**

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DAY 2

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

14:40 – 16:00 **PANEL VI: PEACE, POWER, AND THE POLITICS OF FORGETTING VICTIMS**



SARAH LEAH WHITSON
Former Executive Director, DAWN



NICHOLAS KOUMJIAN
Head, UN Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM)



MAKSIMAS MILTA
Ukraine Country Director, The Reckoning Project



EUGENIA VALENZUELA
Legal Officer, Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC)



THE HONORABLE GASSIA APKARIAN MODERATOR
Judge, Superior Court of California

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DAY 2

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

16:00 – 16:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION: ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF ATROCITY CRIMES**



THE HONORABLE JUDGE ARIEL LIJO

Federal Judge, Federal Criminal and Correctional Court No. 4, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires



THE HONORABLE JUDGE DANIEL HORACIO OBLIGADO

Federal Judge, Federal Criminal Oral Tribunal No. 5, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires



DR. IRENE VICTORIA MASSIMINO MODERATOR

Visiting Professor of Law, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law

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16:30 – 16:50 **AWARDS AND CLOSING CEREMONY**



THE HONORABLE GASSIA APKARIAN

The Honorable Gassia Apkarian was appointed judge of the Superior Court of California. Before becoming a judge in 2014, she served as a senior attorney and president at Apkarian Defense APC (2007-2014), a deputy public defender in Orange County (2000-2007), a public relations advisor to the President of Armenia Robert Kocharyan (1998-1999), the executive director of Democrats 2000 (1997-1998), and special assistant to the ambassador at the Embassy of Armenia in Washington, D.C. (1996-1997). She also worked with the Armenian Assembly of America (1992-1995). Judge Apkarian was awarded the 2022 Alba Witkin Humanitarian Award. She is a founding member and a Senior Advisor to the Center for Truth and Justice.



DR. GURGEN PETROSSIAN

Dr. Gurgen Petrossian is a Senior Officer for International Criminal law at International Nuremberg Principles Academy, and an Armenian legal expert who specializes in international criminal law, international law, and human rights. He holds teaching positions at Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and Yerevan State University. Before rejoining the International Nuremberg Principles Academy, Dr. Petrossian advised one of Germany's largest textile companies on aspects of business and human rights in accordance with the German Act on Due Diligence in Supply Chains. Previously, he worked as head of the International Criminal Law Research Unit at Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg.



EMILYA OHANYAN

Emilya Ashot Ohanyan is a descendant of Ashot Hovhannes Ohanyan, who miraculously survived the Turkish yataghan—the Armenian Genocide of 1915. In 1947, her family repatriated to Armenia from Egypt and was assigned to settle in the village of Vardakar, in the Artik district. Emilya was born there on March 15, 1948. Her family subsequently moved to Yerevan. In 1949, her father was arrested and exiled to Siberia for ten years as a political prisoner, leaving her young mother to care for three small children: Emilya and her two brothers. In 1955, her father was officially exonerated and returned to the family. In 1970, Emilya graduated from the Department of Painting and Drawing at the Faculty of Aesthetics of the Yerevan Pedagogical Institute, qualifying as an artist and art educator. From 1970 to 1998, she worked as an art educator at a school, the Russian Pedagogical College, the Center for Aesthetics, and the Institute for Teacher Development. From 1998 to 2018, she worked at the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), where she was responsible for arts-related activities and served as the founding editor of Shoghik, the first children's spiritual magazine published in Armenia. Emilya is married and has three sons and six grandchildren. Today, she devotes her time to her favorite art form: painting.



DR. YAEL DANIELI

Dr. Yael Danieli, www.dryaeldanieli.com, clinical psychologist, pioneer traumatologist, victimologist, and psychohistorian is founder, CEO and UN representative of the International Center for the Study, Treatment and Prevention of Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma: www.icmglt.org. Having cofounded in 1970s the Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and their Children – the first program for this traumatized populations -- she has conducted extensive psychotherapeutic work with survivors and offspring on individual, family, group and community bases, studied post-war responses and attitudes toward them, and the impact these and the Holocaust had on their lives. Published widely in numerous languages and awarded worldwide, on life-long and multigenerational post-trauma adaptation, optimal care and multidisciplinary training for working with this and other massively traumatized victim/survivor populations globally, and on reparative justice. The Danieli Inventory for Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma allows scientifically valid assessment and comparative international study. Consultant to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Rwanda's government on reparations for victims, she worked in, inter alia, Northern Ireland and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Emerita Distinguished Professor of International Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, built the first PhD program in international psychology, and cofounded and was (first woman) Past-President of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. Dr Danieli participated in creating all international law instruments on behalf of victims' rights and served as expert/consultant to the ICTY, ICTR and the ICC on victim/survivors and staff care. In 2008 she was appointed Advisor on Victims of Terrorism for the office of the UN Secretary-General.



GOR MNATSAKANYAN, ESQ.

Gor Mnatsakanyan, Esq. is a California attorney, Chief Legal Officer for a nationwide pharmaceutical company, and leads a boutique law firm in Southern California. He was born in Yerevan and educated at UCLA and Southwestern Law School. In 2020, he co-founded the Center for Truth and Justice, documenting war crimes and advancing international legal accountability. As the Founding Board President of CFTJ, Gor has helped establish it as a key source of credible evidence used by lawyers, academics, and global institutions.



ELIZABETH ATIENO TAWO

Elizabeth Atieno Tawo is a Kenyan survivor of conflict-related sexual violence. She is a human rights and women's rights advocate dedicated to advancing justice, accountability, reparations, and dignity for survivors of grave human rights violations. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Survivors Liberation Forum (SLF), where she works to amplify survivors' voices and strengthen survivor-centered approaches to justice and reparations.

Elizabeth is a passionate advocate for the meaningful participation and inclusion of survivors in justice processes, particularly survivors from the Global South. Drawing from her lived experience and years of advocacy, she works to challenge stigma, promote survivor agency, and ensure that survivors are not only consulted but recognized as experts and active participants in shaping policies and mechanisms that affect their lives.

She has contributed to international conversations on conflict-related sexual violence, accountability, reparations, and survivor-centered justice, and has engaged with civil society organizations and international justice initiatives. Her advocacy is grounded in the belief that survivors should have the power, dignity, and space to tell their own stories and influence the pursuit of justice.

Elizabeth continues to use both her lived experience and professional advocacy to call for meaningful accountability for perpetrators, recognition and reparations for survivors, and justice systems that place survivors at the heart of the process.



DR. SARKAWT JALIL

Dr. Sarkawt Jalil earned his LL.B. in 2009 from the University of Sulaimani, Kurdistan Region - Iraq; his LL.M. in 2016 from Near East University in Nicosia, Cyprus; and his Ph.D. from the Department of International Law at Near East University. He has been a member of the Executive Board of the Kurdistan Center for International Law (KCIL) since 2022 and is the author of two books in Kurdish: Meditations on the Philosophy of Human Rights (Mukiryani Press, Erbil, 2020) and Humanitarian Intervention as a Collective Security Project: Anfal and Darfur (KCIL, Slemani, 2022). He is the author of three published articles in local journals about the Kurdish genocide (biological and cultural) compared to other cases of genocide, namely, Rwanda and Bosnia. He previously worked with UN agencies, in particular UNHCR and UNICEF, in projects related to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq and gender-based violence (GBV).



SVETLANA HARUTYUNYAN

Svetlana Harutyunyan was born on February 15, 1997. From 2003 to 2014, she attended School No. 1 in Martuni, Artsakh. From 2014 to 2020, she studied at Yerevan State Medical University named after Mkhitar Heratsi as a general practitioner. From 2020 to 2024, she studied at Yerevan State Medical University named after Mkhitar Heratsi as a rheumatologist. She completed the HMX Pro Immunology online course at Harvard Medical School in 2023. As part of exchange programs, she studied at Almazov National Medical Research Centre in St. Petersburg and Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University. In 2024, she completed her residency in Emergency Medicine at the National Institute of Health of Armenia. She worked at the Republican Hospital of Stepanakert as an emergency medicine physician and rheumatologist. In 2023, she was forcibly displaced from Artsakh and witnessed explosions and the consequences of war. She currently works as a lecturer at the Department of Rheumatology at Yerevan State Medical University and as a rheumatologist at Hospital No. 1.



ZAINUL MUSTAFA

Zainul Mustafa is a Rohingya human rights advocate and survivor of the genocide against the Rohingya in Myanmar. Born and raised in Myanmar, he experienced the discrimination and restrictions imposed on his people, including the denial of citizenship, freedom of movement, and access to education. In 2017, he was forced to flee to Bangladesh. In the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, Zainul worked with humanitarian organizations as a protection officer and later as an interpreter for Rohingya rights and genocide-related investigations. Now based in Berlin, he continues to advocate for Rohingya rights, justice, and accountability, drawing on his lived experience and humanitarian background.



THOMAS BECKER

Thomas Becker is the Legal and Policy Director at the University Network for Human Rights. He has spent most of the past two decades working on human rights issues in Bolivia. He was the catalyst behind and a lead attorney in Mamani v. Sánchez de Lozada, the first successful human rights lawsuit in the United States against a living former head of state. Becker launched the lawsuit while still a student at Harvard Law School, where he graduated cum laude. Becker also was part of the legal team that held seven government officials accountable for genocide in a "Trial of Responsibilities" in the Bolivian Supreme Court. He has conducted human rights work around the world, investigating torture and extrajudicial killings of Adivasis in India and Sahrawis in Western Sahara; documenting war crimes in Lebanon and Nagorno-Karabakh; examining land rights in South Africa and Palestine; exposing death squads in Honduras and Colombia; and serving as a nonviolent bodyguard for the Zapatista guerrillas in Mexico. Becker teaches human rights at Columbia Law School. Previously he was a Clinical Instructor at Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic. He has also taught students at Yale, Stanford, and the University of California as a supervisor, and he has lectured at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale Law School, Universidad de los Andes (Colombia), Universidad Public de El Alto (Bolivia), among other universities. His work has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Guardian, The Nation, The Atlantic, Le Monde, El País, Vice Magazine, Al Jazeera, BBC, NPR, and Univision, among others. His book, Coup: A Story of Violence and Resistance in Bolivia, co-authored with Linda Farthing, was a finalist for the Duke University Juan E. Mendez Book Award for Human Rights. When he is not practicing law, Becker is an award-winning musician and songwriter who has recorded with Grammy-winning producers and toured throughout the world as a drummer and guitarist. He also is a mountain climber who has summited peaks all over the world, including Mount Everest.



REUBEN BUHARI

Reuben Buhari is Co-founder and Program Director for Resilience, Aid and Dialogue Initiative (RADi). RADi assists internally displaced persons, indigent children, orphans, and widows in Nigeria to build productive lives and become thriving citizens. RADi supports displaced or indigent persons, particularly children and young people, to help them attain, at minimum, a basic level of education. Assistance is also extended to these children's families to ensure the children grow up in a nurturing home, an environment conducive to learning, and a peaceful community. Social initiatives such as cooperatives, sporting competitions, and business seminars are pursued to promote dialogue, build trust, and foster peace within the community. Reuben has been a humanitarian, journalist, and researcher for both print and broadcast media in Nigeria since 2006. He served as Media advisor to the late Governor Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa of Kaduna State until his death in 2012, and as Media advisor to the former Minister of Environment, Mrs Laurentia Mallam, in 2014. With the outbreak of violence in Kaduna State, he went into conflict resolution, mediation, and peacebuilding, including humanitarian intervention for IDPs. Since 2015, he has worked with different local and international development organizations, including the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) as a facilitator, and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), where he is a trained dialogue facilitator and a member of the Nigerian Network of Facilitators under USIP. Reuben is also the Press and Research Officer for Christian Solidarity Worldwide – Nigeria (CSW-N), a human rights organization that advocates for freedom of religion or belief for all.



NATIA NAVROUZOV

Natia Navrouzov is Yazda’s Executive Director, a Yazidi-focused and global NGO established three weeks after the start of ISIS genocidal campaign against the Yazidi community in Sinjar. She is a French-qualified lawyer specializing in international law, human rights, and transitional justice. As a member of the Yazidi community, Natia has been instrumental in Yazda's initiatives since joining in 2018. She holds various positions within the organization, including Project Manager and Interim Country Director. In 2021, she was appointed as Yazda’s first Legal Advocacy Director. Under her leadership, Yazda collected testimonies of ISIS survivors and documented evidence from crime sites, and collaborated with international and national bodies, including the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability Against Da’esh Crimes (UNITAD), national war crimes units and the Office of Amal Clooney. Notably, her leadership played a key role in the conviction of several ISIS members in Germany, including for genocide against Yazidi victims. In 2019, Natia supported a group of Yazidi female advocates to establish the Yazidi Survivors Network (YSN) and campaigned with them for the passing of the Yazidi Survivors Law until its adoption in March 2021. Before joining Yazda, Natia worked for a globally recognized law firm specializing in International Public Law and International Arbitration in Paris, as a Research Assistant at the London Court of Arbitration, and Assistant Lecturer at the Université of Panthéon-Sorbonne in Paris. Admitted to the Paris Bar, Natia holds a dual bachelor's degree in German and French Law from the University of Cologne (Germany) and Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France); she holds Master’s degrees in International Law from Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Columbia University (USA), where she graduated as a Human Rights Fellow and Fulbright scholar, and was awarded the Davis Polk Fellowship. Natia is also an Obama Foundation Leader.



DR. PHILIPP AMBACH

Dr. Philipp Ambach is Chief of the Victims Participation and Reparations Section at the International Criminal Court (ICC). As such, he organizes and facilitates victims' participation in criminal proceedings in all proceedings before the ICC, as well as reparations in case of a conviction. He previously served as the ICC President's Special Assistant for over six years.
Before that, he worked at the UN ad hoc tribunals ICTY and ICTR as a legal advisor to the Judges of the Appeals Chamber. Prior to that, he worked as an associate legal officer in the ICTY Registry. Mr. Ambach holds a Ph.D. in international criminal law from Free University of Berlin and has been admitted as prosecutor to the prosecutor's office of Cologne, Germany. He obtained his Master's degree in law in 2004 from Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany. He is a guest lecturer in international criminal and humanitarian law at various legal institutions and has published a number of academic contributions in these fields.



GABRIELA RADU

Gabriela Radu is a Researcher at the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, working at the intersection of international and domestic criminal justice, accountability, and rule of law reform. She joined the Institute in 2022 under the project MATRA: Strengthening Ukraine's Capacity to Investigate and Prosecute International Crimes (2020–2024) and has since worked primarily on Ukraine-related projects concerning accountability for international crimes, judicial reform, and the strengthening of the rule of law.
Her current work focuses on the Restoring Dignity & Justice in Ukraine and MATRA: Advancing the Rule of Law in Ukraine – Strengthening the Judicial System and Freedom of Expression (2025–2029) projects. As part of the Institute's accountability work on Ukraine, she led the workstream on legislative reform concerning the domestic implementation of international crimes, working closely with members of the Ukrainian Parliament and other relevant stakeholders. She coordinates judicial engagement activities relating to accountability for international crimes and the Asser Institute's contributions to the Knowledge Hub on International Criminal Law for the Ukrainian judiciary. Under the MATRA Rule of Law project, she also coordinates the Institute's work on the governance and use of artificial intelligence in Ukrainian courts. Gabriela also coordinates the Asser component of the BRIDGE (Building Relations for International and Domestic Gathering of Evidence) Project, funded by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Erbil, supporting accountability efforts relating to ISIS crimes in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.
Her research focuses on accountability for international crimes, institutional and judicial reform, and the alignment of Ukraine's legal framework and judicial practice with international and European standards, including in the context of EU accession. Her broader research interests include the impact of digitalization and artificial intelligence on justice systems, including judicial institutions, legal professionals, procedures, and evidentiary practices, as well as their implications for the protection of fundamental rights. She is also interested in emerging legal-theoretical approaches to international law. From 2023 to 2024, she coordinated the Inter-University Programme on International Criminal Law and Procedure for Ukrainian law schools, funded by the USAID Justice for All Activity, supporting academic cooperation and capacity-building among Ukrainian academic institutions.
Gabriela holds an LL.M. in Public International Law (Research Track) from the University of Amsterdam, including a study exchange at Georgetown University Law Center, and an LL.B. (Honours) in International Law with European Legal Studies from the University of Hull, including a study exchange at Tilburg University.



DR. YEGHISHE KIRAKOSYAN

Dr. Yeghishe Kirakosyan is a dedicated scholar and educator with a strong academic background in international law. Since completing his PhD at Yerevan State University in 2006, he has served as an Assistant Professor at the Chair of European and International Law. His commitment to legal education is reflected in his extensive teaching experience at Yerevan State University and other leading universities in Armenia, as well as in his role as the author of this LL.M. Program.

Alongside his academic career, Dr. Kirakosyan has actively engaged in international legal practice. Over the past 6 years, he has represented the Republic of Armenia before various international fora as the Representative on International Legal Matters, including before the International Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights, and international arbitral tribunals and foreign courts. He is the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Equity Law Partners law firm, specializing in corporate law, dispute resolution, and strategic advisory.

Dr. Kirakosyan is a Member of the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators and Conciliators. He is a Licensed Attorney with the Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia since 2016, and has recently joined the Arbitration and Mediation Center of Armenia as a Member of the Council.



DAVIT GEVORGYAN

Davit Gevorgyan is a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist from Yerevan, Armenia, with over 20 years of experience in trauma and human rights. He led a rehabilitation program for torture survivors and monitored places of detention for the Human Rights Defender's Office. After the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war, he managed a rehabilitation center for affected servicemen and civilians, and established and supervised the psychological services at the Soldier's Home Rehabilitation Center. He has worked with the Council of Europe, UNICEF, UNDP and the EU, and has written more than 50 publications, many on trauma and war-related mental health. He teaches clinical psychology at Yerevan State University and manages the YSU Center of Applied Psychology. He is also President of the Armenian CBT Association.



THIKRAN MATO

Thikran Mato is a Yazidi genocide survivor from Sinjar, Northern Iraq, and a human rights advocate working to advance justice, memory, and survivors' rights. As Director of Nobody's Listening, he contributes to international advocacy efforts through survivor-led storytelling, education, and public engagement, including engagement with parliaments, universities, and human rights institutions. His work has included advocacy training for survivor communities and supporting families of missing persons through previous work with the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP). Through his advocacy, he works to ensure that victims' voices remain central to conversations on accountability, remembrance, and prevention.



ARA GHAZARYAN

Ara Ghazaryan is a criminal defense lawyer and the founder of a law firm based in Armenia. He specializes in European human rights law and represents applicants before the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Committee. Since 2010, he has been actively engaged in international human rights litigation against Azerbaijan, bringing cases concerning serious and widespread human rights violations.



DR. PABLO GAVIRA DÍAZ

Dr. Pablo Gavira Díaz is a Project Officer at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy, where he contributes to a wide variety of matters, including legal research, policy analysis, event management as well as public dissemination of knowledge in the field of international criminal justice. He is a Spanish lawyer, specialized in international humanitarian law and international criminal law. He received his doctorate in International Law from the Walther Schücking Institute for International Law at the Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, where his doctoral research focused on the international protection of immovable cultural property and the criminal liability for attacks against those objects in international criminal law. Dr Gavira Díaz has also worked in academic environments, namely the Walther Schücking Institute for International Law, the European center for Minority Issues and the University of Prishtina. In addition, he provided legal support to the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE), which is responsible for the planning and execution of all NATO military operations.



MISCHA GUREGHIAN HALL

Mischa Gureghian Hall is a Defense Legal Associate at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and serves on Defense teams before the International Criminal Court and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. He has contributed to numerous projects with the Center for Truth and Justice, including its advocacy on behalf of victims before United Nations human rights treaty monitoring bodies and Special Procedures mandate holders. He has also published on issues of international criminal law and procedure, international humanitarian law, and human rights, including in the Journal of International Criminal Justice, the International Review of the Red Cross, the Melbourne Journal of International Law, and popular international legal blogs. He studied Law at the University of Oxford and international relations at the University of California, Los Angeles.



NICHOLAS KOUMJIAN

Nicholas Koumjian is the Head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM or Myanmar Mechanism). He was appointed by Secretary-General António Guterres to head the IIMM in 2019, which has the mandate to collect and analyze evidence of serious international crimes committed in Myanmar. He was a prosecutor in Los Angeles from 1981-2000 and since that time has worked in various international positions including prosecuting international crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia, Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone and Cambodia.



STEFAN WAESPI

Stefan Waespi is a former Senior Trial Attorney at the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and a Swiss Federal Prosecutor. He also served as the Senior Case Attorney of the UN International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIIC) in Beirut, Lebanon in relation to the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and was the Chief of Investigations of two UN Commissions of Inquiry (Gaza and DRC). Most recently, he was an International Investigation Judge with the Special Criminal Court (SCC) in the Central African Republic.



CHRISTIAN MKHITARYAN

Christian Mkhitaryan is a practicing lawyer in Germany. He graduated in 2016 from Goethe University Frankfurt, specializing in the internationalization and Europeanization of law. In 2017, he completed an internship at the German Bundestag and later worked as an integration coach and volunteer language and cultural mediator. That same year, he co-founded the German-Armenian Lawyers' Association (DEARJV) and has served on its board since. He has been practicing law since early 2020 and opened his own law firm in May 2021. In 2022, he contributed as an author to the anthology "Nagorno-Karabakh: A Legal Analysis of the Conflict over Artsakh."



PROFESSOR DR. HILDE FARTHOFER

Professor Dr. Hilde Farthofer is Associate Professor at the Institute for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and works at the Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences, Federal Police Department. Before she worked as an interim professor at the University of Bonn, Münster, Tübingen, and Munich. She was habilitated in January 2019 at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in German and international criminal law and procedure, legal contemporary history, and comparative criminal law. She graduated in law at the University of Salzburg, Austria.



SIRANUSH SAHAKYAN

Siranush Sahakyan is a human rights lawyer and legal expert with more than 15 years of experience in human rights advocacy, judicial reform, anti-corruption policy, and strategic litigation. She has held senior public positions in Armenia and has served as an ad hoc Judge at the European Court of Human Rights. She is the President of the International and Comparative Law Center, and a member of the Chamber of Advocates of Armenia. A founder of several civil society organizations, including Protection of Rights Without Borders, she has been actively engaged in advancing the rule of law, accountability, and human rights protection in Armenia.
Alongside her legal and advocacy work, Ms. Sahakyan is actively engaged in academic and professional education, contributing to university teaching, legal research, and the training of students and practitioners in international human rights law, public international law, and related fields. Ms. Sahakyan has extensive experience litigating before international and regional human rights mechanisms, with a particular focus on war crimes, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture, and other grave human rights violations. She currently represents Armenian prisoners of war and their families in international proceedings and combines legal advocacy with documentation, policy engagement, and public outreach. Her professional contributions have been recognized through a number of national and international awards, including Armenia's State Medal "For Services to the Motherland," the Freedom Award of the Armenian National Committee of America Eastern Region, the Prix Jean-Claude Barral de la Défense et des Droits de l'Homme, the 2024 "Lawyer of the Year" Award of the Center for Truth and Justice, and the 2025 Raphael Lemkin Award of the Armenian National Committee of Australia, presented in recognition of her distinguished human rights work on behalf of the Armenian people.



GEVORG VARDANYAN, ESQ.

Gevorg Vardanyan, Esq. is a civil litigation attorney based in Los Angeles, California. He represents individuals in personal injury matters and employment and labor law disputes. As a member of the Board of Directors of CFTJ, he has been involved in educating and training law students in Armenia on the methodologies to collect admissible testimonial evidence. He is the Chair of CFTJ's annual conference held in Armenia.



LUSINE SARGSYAN

Lusine Sargsyan holds an MSc in Human Rights with a focus on public international law from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a BA in English and Communications with a minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from the American University of Armenia. Her professional experience includes producing human rights analyses for EVN Report, conducting research to support the development of a transitional justice agenda for the Government of Armenia, working at the Constitutional Court of Armenia, and contributing to the work of Center for Truth and Justice in 2023. Prior to joining Democracy Development Foundation, her work focused on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and on NK refugee issues at UNHCR Armenia.



PROFESSOR DR. LUKE MOFFETT

Professor Dr. Luke Moffett is chair of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law at Queen's University Belfast. His research focuses on victims' rights, reparations, civilian harm, and the increasing algorithmic turn in armed conflict. He has conducted fieldwork in over a dozen conflict/post-conflict societies and worked with different victim groups in advocating and litigating for redress. He is author of Justice for Victims before the International Criminal Court (Routledge 2014), Reparations and War (OUP 2023), and Algorithms of War (BUP 2026).



JOSEPH SCHECHLA

Joseph Schechla is a founder and the coordinator of Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN), a thematic structure of Habitat International Coalition, founded 50 years ago at the first UN Habitat Conference (1976). With academic training in International Relations, he has specialized in comparative analysis of states' human rights obligations and their foreign policies, focusing on the impacts on West Asia and North Africa. Having served as an academic (American University in Cairo, Law Department) and official of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (Palestine, Tunisia, and Libya), since 2000, he has led his organization in quantifying and remedying impacts of forced evictions, displacement, population transfer and other violations of housing and land rights, and in supporting civil society organizations to apply the corresponding norms in their programs. Under Mr. Schechla's direction, HLRN also maintains a global Violation Database, published case-based and thematic research, and conducts advocacy within the UN's Human Rights System and Development System with Members and civil society partners.



HUWAIDA ARRAF

Huwaida Arraf is a Palestinian American civil and human rights attorney, activist, and organizer. She co-founded the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) in 2001, a Palestinian-led, international nonviolent resistance movement twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She helped establish one of the first accredited clinical legal education programs in the Arab world at Al-Quds University and was among the organizers of the first delegation of lawyers to enter Gaza following Israel's 2008–09 assault--Operation Cast Lead. She served as Chairperson of the Free Gaza Movement, leading five successful sea voyages to challenge Israel's illegal and deadly blockade on Gaza in 2008 and was one of the primary organizers of the 2010 Gaza Freedom Flotilla, which was lethally attacked by Israeli forces. In 2011, she was also one of six Palestinian Freedom Riders who challenged racial segregation on Israeli public transportation, for which they were beaten and arrested.

Currently based in Detroit, Huwaida practices civil rights law and advocates for people harmed by state and institutional abuses, including police brutality, wrongful arrests, voter disenfranchisement, and the suppression of students advocating for Palestine. She is a former co-chair of the National Lawyers Guild Palestine Subcommittee and serves on the boards of several human rights and Palestinian organizations. A member of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition Steering Committee, she continues to organize civilian flotillas challenging Israel's illegal blockade of Gaza. In 2025, she led the Handala and Conscience missions, both of which were attacked by Israeli forces and resulted in the kidnapping, abuse, and deportation of hundreds of international activists.



SARAH LEAH WHITSON

Sarah Leah Whitson is a lawyer and author with a focus on human rights, humanitarian law, and U.S. foreign policy. She served as executive director of DAWN, an organization that seeks to reform U.S. policy in the Middle East, from 2020 - 2026 and as executive director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa Division from 2004 – 2020, overseeing the work of the division in 19 countries. She currently serves on the boards of the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians, the Artistic Freedom Initiative, ALQST for Human Rights, Action for Hope, the International Observatory for Democracy in Armenia, and the Armenian Bar Association, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Whitson has led dozens of advocacy and investigative missions in the MENA region, focusing on issues of armed conflict, human rights, accountability, and legal and policy reform. She has published widely in international and regional media, including The New York Times, Foreign Affairs, The Washington Post, Foreign Policy, The Los Angeles Times, American Prospect, and CNN and appears regularly as a commentator in global media. Whitson's book with Michael Omer-Man, "From Apartheid to Democracy: A Blueprint for Peace in Israel-Palestine," was published in September 2025 by University of California Press. Previously, Whitson worked in New York for Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and Harvard Law School and is fluent in English, Arabic and Armenian.



MAKSIMAS MILTA

Maksimas Milta is Director of Programs and Ukraine Country Director at The Reckoning Project. Based in Kyiv, he leads TRP's work to document atrocity crimes against civilians in Ukraine, Sudan, and Palestine and to hold perpetrators accountable. Previously, Maksimas was a Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the Geopolitics and Security Studies Center, and worked at the European Humanities University, a Belarusian university-in-exile. Since 2021, he has been affiliated with Lithuania's public broadcaster LRT. Maksimas holds an MA in Political Science from Vilnius University and an MA in European and Russian Studies from Yale University.



EUGENIA VALENZUELA

Eugenia Valenzuela is a Legal Officer of the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court, currently leading the team on Complementarity and Civil Society. She previously served as Special Assistant to the Deputy Prosecutor, advising on strategic, policy and governance matters across situations. Prior to this, she led the preliminary examinations of the situations in Colombia, Venezuela and Honduras, and worked on the situations of Guinea, Burundi and several others. Before joining the ICC, Eugenia worked in different capacities for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, as well as for other non-governmental and international organizations. Eugenia is a Peruvian Lawyer, and holds an LLM on Public International Law.



DR. IRENE VICTORIA MASSIMINO

Dr. Irene Victoria Massimino is a lawyer specializing in international criminal law and human rights law. She holds a Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, in the United States, where she currently serves as Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, teaching public international law and international criminal law. She also holds a Master of Arts in Human Rights from the University of London, United Kingdom, and a law degree from the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences of the National University of La Plata, Argentina.

Dr. Massimino previously served as Rapporteur of the High Criminal Court of Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, where she focused on cases involving institutional violence, police brutality, and gender-based violence, contributing to significant jurisprudence in the field of human rights. In this capacity, she also became a member of the Provincial Roundtable established to address the emergency situation in Buenos Aires Province's prison system.

Her professional work focuses on internal and international conflicts, serious human rights violations, and atrocity crimes, particularly genocide. She has worked extensively on situations involving Argentina, Armenia, Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Iraq, Somaliland, and Ukraine, among others. She has participated in international investigative delegations and trial observation missions and is a former co-founder of the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention.

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