

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

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SIXTH COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

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Thursday, January 30, 2014

Padilha Vidal Room, OAS General Services Building

1889 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE PANELISTS

- *Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs*  
*Ambassador Diego Pary*  
*Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the OAS*

Ambassador Pary was born in the Department of Potosí, Bolivia. He went to primary school in the Chajnacaya, the community where he was born, and completed his secondary education at Pablo VI School in Caiza "D," where he graduated with a high school diploma. His background as a Quechua indigenous leader enabled him in 1996 to enter San Francisco Xavier University in Chuquisaca, Sucre, where he earned a degree in education. During his years at university he was active as a student leader and representative.

He also pursued supplementary studies in Broadcasting, Higher Education and Law of Indigenous Peoples.

He embarked on his professional career in 2000 in the Departments of Chuquisaca, Potosí and Tarija, providing training to municipal officials and indigenous leaders through community-based organizations, local governments and nongovernmental organizations, such as the Loyola Cultural Action Foundation [*Fundación Acción Cultural Loyola*] (ACLO).

In 2005 he was appointed member of the advisory team to the indigenous movement of Bolivia in charge of drafting the rural native indigenous organizations' proposal for the country's new constitution. Following the historic re-founding of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in 2006 he was appointed Permanent Advisor to the Constituent Assembly, representing the indigenous movement.

In 2008, his educational expertise and experience as an indigenous leader, led to his appointment as Coordinator of the Intercultural Indigenous University of the Indigenous Peoples' Fund of Latin America and the Caribbean. That same year he became Vice Minister of Higher Education of Bolivia, in which capacity he founded three indigenous universities; instituted the recognition of indigenous wisdom and

knowledge through the Skills Certification System; transformed teacher training; developed technical and technological training, and worked for the adoption of the new Education Law of Bolivia.

Since May 2011 he has represented the Plurinational State of Bolivia at the Organization of American States (OAS). In June 2012 he organized and supervised the holding of the forty-second regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization. During his tenure at the OAS he has held the Chair and Vice Chair of the Permanent Council, the Chair of the General Committee, the Chair of the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure, and the Chair of the Working Group on the Declaration of Cochabamba. At present he chairs the Inter-American Council for Integral Development and the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS

- *Patrick Zahnd*

Legal Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean  
International Committee of the Red Cross

Legal Advisor for the Americas, Head of Advisory Services in International Humanitarian Law for Latin America and the Caribbean

Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since 1982, with a variety of positions and duties, including legal, political and diplomatic advisor and head of several regional delegations:

- Head of regional delegation for the following countries:

2003-06: Central Europe and Croatia, Budapest, and Zagreb;

2000-03: Southern Africa-Indian Ocean, Pretoria;

1995-98: Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Guatemala City;

- Legal Advisor:

2007-2009: Legal Advisor, head of IHL advisory services and head of liaison with the academic world for CIS countries (former Soviet Union area);

1998-2000: Deputy Head and legal advisor, ICRC delegation to the United Nations;

1984-85: Legal Advisor, Pretoria, South Africa;

1983: Legal Advisor, Tel-Aviv, Israel;

- Political and diplomatic advisor:

1998-2000: Deputy Head, observer delegation to the United Nations, New York;

1992-1994: Political Advisor to the Director of Operations, Geneva;

- In charge of operations:

1990-92: Head of Operations for West and Central Africa;

1989-92: Head of Operations for Latin America;

1989: Head of Mission, Senegal, and delegate in Afghanistan

1988: Head of Mission, Somalia;

1987-88: Deputy Head, Ethiopia;  
1985-86: Head of Mission, Somalia;

1979-82: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in charge of programme, Bamako, Mali;

1977-79: European Commission, Directorate General for Development (VIII), Brussels, in charge of program

1975-77: Assistant professor of law, University of Dijon, France

- *Dante Negro*  
*Director, Department of International Law*  
*General Secretariat of the OAS*

Director, Department of International Law, Organization of American States (OAS) Dr. Dante Negro has more than 18 years' experience in the Secretariat for Legal Affairs and has served as legal advisor to the OAS Secretary General in the search for solutions to border disputes and democratic strengthening processes. He has written a large number of articles on topics relating to international law, in particular on the role and evolution of the inter-American legal system, the scope and content of different inter-American treaties, the Summits of the Americas, international humanitarian law, and human rights. He has also been invited to speak at numerous training workshops, seminars, and high-level conferences both in and outside Latin America.

Dr. Negro is a professor on the Master's Course on International Protection of Human Rights offered by the University of Alcalá, Spain. He holds a law degree from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, where he also pursued postgraduate studies in International Economic Law, as well as a Masters in International Law and Human Rights from the University of Notre Dame in the United States.

- *Alejandro Valencia Villa*  
Professor and independent consultant on matters concerning human rights, humanitarian law, and transitional justice in Colombia.

Colombian lawyer dedicated to the advancement and protection of human rights for the past 25 years. He is currently an independent consultant on human rights, humanitarian law and transitional justice; a professor at the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at American University in Washington, D.C.; and a member of the academic committee for the Master's Degree Course on Human Rights offered by the University of Santo Tomas, Bogotá. In addition he is a professor on the master's degree and postgraduate specialization course in human rights at *Universidad Externado de Colombia* and the postgraduate specialization course on culture of peace at Javeriana University, Cali. He has worked as a consultant to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights, both at its office in Columbia and on a range of projects in Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru. He has also been called as an expert witness before the Inter-American Court on Human Rights. He worked as an advisor to the project for the recovery of the historical memory of women victims of the armed conflict in Colombia: “Colombian Women's Truth and Memory Commission,” an initiative of *Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres*, an NGO. He also served as general advisor to the Truth Commission of Ecuador and consultant to the Truth and Justice Commission of Paraguay and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru. Furthermore he headed the Special Investigations Team of the Historical Clarification Commission of Guatemala. He was the first National Director for Assistance and Complaints of the Ombudsman's Office in Columbia, and a lawyer at the Center for Justice and International Law in Washington, D.C., and the Colombian subsidiary of the Andean Commission of Jurists (today the Colombian Commission of Jurists). He has published several books on human rights and humanitarian law both as author and as editor or compiler.

- *Alejandra Ortiz*  
Legal Advisor  
Regional Delegation for Mexico, Central America and Cuba  
International Committee of the Red Cross

Legal Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Alexandra Ortiz Signoret has worked as a legal advisor for the Legal Advisory Service of the International Committee of the Red Cross at the Regional Delegation for Mexico, Central America, and Cuba since May 2009.

She studied Franco-Hispanic law at the *Universidad Complutense de Madrid* (Spain) and *La Sorbonne* (Paris), obtaining a Bachelor of Laws degree in Franco-Hispanic law from both universities in 2007. She did an internship with the renowned Judge Baltasar Garzón in criminal law. She did a Master's in European Law at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. She has been a member of the Madrid Bar Association (*Colegio de Abogados de Madrid*) since 2008. In 2011 she completed the Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights at the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in Costa Rica. She has also attended several courses on the Use of Force offered by the National Institute of Criminal Sciences (*Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Penales*) of Mexico.

She has also lectured on a variety of subjects to do with human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular, the issue of the use of force by law enforcement officers and protection of the individual. Notably, these have included papers at an international seminar on the legitimate use of force and protection of human rights organized in the context of the European Union/Mexico Human Rights Program by the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Union; the interinstitutional training course to combat illicit trafficking in firearms in Costa

Rica, Panama, and El Salvador, and numerous seminars with members of the police, the armed forces, and academics in Mexico and Central America.

- *Gary Brown*  
Legal Advisor  
Regional Delegation for the United States and Canada  
International Committee of the Red Cross

Deputy Legal Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Gary Brown is Deputy Legal Advisor for the International Committee of the Red Cross, Regional Delegation for the United States and Canada, a position he has held since 2012. In this capacity, he provides advice on international humanitarian law and contributes to the strategic positioning of the ICRC and the Delegation on issues of international law.

Prior to joining the ICRC, Gary served for 24 years as a judge advocate with the United States Air Force. Colonel Brown's Air Force career included two tours in the United Kingdom and one in Panama, as well as two deployments to the Middle East. He spent a year at the Combined Air Operations Center, Southwest Asia as the senior lawyer advising on combat air operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. In his final assignment he was the first senior legal counsel for U.S. Cyber Command, Fort Meade, Maryland, where he served for three years.

Gary is a noted speaker on cyber operations law, and has authored several articles related to cyber warfare, most recently "Why Iran Didn't Admit Stuxnet Was an Attack," *Joint Forces Quarterly* (2011), "Law at Cyberspeed," *International Humanitarian Law & New Weapon Technologies* (2012), and "On the Spectrum of Cyberspace Operations," *Small Wars Journal* (2012) (coauthor). He was the official U.S. observer to the international group of experts drafting the Tallinn Manual on International Law Applicable to Cyber Warfare (2013). He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, College of Law, and holds an LL.M. in international law from Cambridge University.