

# Giandomenico Picco

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**Mr. Giandomenico Picco** was born in 1948 in the Eastern Alps. His working languages are English, French, Spanish, and Italian. He served the United Nations' Secretary General in the field of Conflict Resolution up to the rank of Under Secretary General. He carries EU and US citizenship and resides in the United States.

Mr. Picco was personally and directly upfront in the negotiations, which led to the end of the first Afghan War in 1988, the Iran-Iraq war in 1988; he was also personally involved in the efforts, which led to the freedom of Western hostages in Beirut, and concluded in 1991 and 1992.

For his lone and non-diplomatic role in the resolution of the hostage saga (1983-1992) in Lebanon, Mr. Picco was presented with:

- **President's Special Award for Exceptional Service**, by the President of the United States of America, H.W. Bush, December 1991.
- **Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany**, by the President of Germany, August 1992.
- **Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.)**, by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, March 1993.
- **Order of the Cèdre du Liban (Commandeur)**, by the President of Lebanon, May 1993.
- **Order of Grande Ufficiale Della Repubblica**, by the President of the Republic of Italy, 1993.

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## **Academic Background:**

Mr. Picco holds:

- A graduate degree in political science from the University of Padua, Italy.
- A Master of Arts in International Relations and Comparative Politics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.
- A Diploma in European Integration Studies from the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- He attended the University of Prague (then Czechoslovakia).
- He received Honorary Doctorates in Law from Notre Dame College, New Hampshire, the College of Saint Vincent, New York, and in Letters from Marywood College, Scranton, Pennsylvania, and in Political Science from the University of Trieste, Italy.

## **United Nations**

From 1973 to 1992 and from 1998-2001, Mr. Picco served as official of the United Nations Organization, (last position) Under Secretary-General.

- He was in charge of the UN efforts that led to the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon, from 1989 to 1992 and others missing or detained without due process.
- He headed the task force, which led to the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq in the summer of 1988.
- He was a member of the team (from 1981 to 1988) that negotiated the Geneva Accords (1988) on Afghanistan relating to the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from that country.
- In 1986, he was the United Nations official who assisted the Secretary-General on the arbitration of the bilateral dispute between France and New Zealand over the "Rainbow Warrior" incident.
- From 1976 to 1978 he served with the Peace-keeping Force keeping force in Cyprus.
- In late 1990's, he was asked by the UN Secretary General to assist (as a UN Under Secretary General) some Governments in the solution of a common issue involving detained citizens.
- Over a period of some years, he was personally and directly involved in bringing back to freedom individuals from four (4) different countries, different faiths and in different operations and the

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remains of several individuals.

- During his career he negotiated directly (mostly alone or as part of a three member teams) with Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Cyprus of both denominations and of course, with the USSR and the USA.
- From 1998 to 2003 he was asked to assist the UN Secretary General, at the level of Under Secretary General, on issues affecting the post Cold War system.

## **Private Sector**

Mr. Picco joined the private sector in the mid1990s as an advisor of issues related to negotiations between corporations. He is and has been member of various institutions mainly focused on international affairs.

From 1992 to 1994: He was Executive Director for International Affairs and member of the board of the Montedison Group (a chemical and agro-industrial conglomerate).

From 1994, he has been a consultant to corporations on political risk and related issues, particularly in the larger Middle East, and the Balkans under the name of his GDP Associates, Inc. a New York corporation since 1994, located in Connecticut since 2007.

He has also consulted with research institutions on the economic situation and political risk of South Asia and Islamic Countries. In 2007-2009 he negotiated the first business agreement between the Government of Turkey and Armenia, though despite been formally announced by the respective governments, it was not implemented.

Mr. Picco provides executives with economic and political updates and assessment of developments in certain areas of the Greater Levant: His clients include energy companies, investment groups and retail companies.

His professional journey has been one "from East to West", (indeed from Pakistan to Lebanon and not the other way around), he engaged in negotiations with almost each Nation States: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey and Cyprus.

From 2014, Executive Advisor to US Equity Partners Holdings, LLC, USA

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## **Memberships:**

- Foreign Associate of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London (UK).
- Member of the Middle East Institute Seminar, Columbia University, New York.
- Member of the Board of Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI), Milan, Italy.
- Vice President, Scientific Committee Pio Manzù Foundation, Rimini, Italy.
- Member of the Board of the International Peace Academy (IPA), New York.
- Member of the Century Association (New York).
- Member of the Advisory Board of the Encyclopedia of the United Nations and International Agreements.
- Member of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Studies at Yale University.
- Member of the Advisory Board of the European Center for Common Ground.
- Member of the Advisory Board of Limes (International affairs magazine), Italy.
- International Chair, Master in International Affairs, ISPI, Milan, Italy.
- Member of the International Advisory Board of the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University.
- Ambassador of the Peres Center for Peace and the UNOPS Peace-building Foundation.
- Honorary Fellow, Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, St. Andrews University, Scotland.
- Senior Fellow, School of Diplomacy, Seton Hall University.
- Founding Member, International Council for Conflict Resolution, The Carter Center, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Member of the External Advisory Board for the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, The Graduate Center, New York.
- Member of the Advisory Board of The Institute for International Mediation and Conflict Resolution, Washington, D.C.
- Recipient of the Tolerance Award by the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, Salzburg (Austria) 2005.
- Senior Fellow at the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University, N.J., USA.
- Advisor to the Oxford Research Group, London, UK.

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- ICWA Washington, Member Board of Trustees.
- Member of the Board, Inter Parliamentary Coalition for Global Ethics.
- On May 3rd, 2015, Mr. Picco received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of achievement, dedication and sacrifice to promote the culture of peace in the global arena in the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, California, USA

*Continues on Page 6*

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## PUBLICATIONS

### **Books**

Mr. Picco's personal account of the end of the Iran-Iraq war and the liberation of the Western Hostages from Lebanon was published in May 1999, N.Y. under the title: "**Man Without a Gun**", by Random House-Times Books.

His latest book "**The Fog of peace**" written jointly with Gabrielle Rifkind was issued in March 2014 London (by I.B. Tauris -London).

**"Becoming enemies" (US-Iran relations and the Iran-Iraq war, 1979-1988)**: a literal transcript of the very words by "7 decision makers of that decade". Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2012 (Plymouth, UK 2012).

In October 1997 he co-authored "**The Future of Iraq**" by the Middle East Institute in Washington and in January 1996 "**Sovereignty and Maritime Jurisdiction in the Southern Red Sea**": (a solution to the dispute between Yemen and Eritrea, eventually adopted by the London Court of Arbitration in October 1998).

In November 2001, He has co-authored "**Crossing the Divide**" Dialogue Among Civilizations (Seton Hall University Press 2001) presented to the United Nations membership.

He has Co-authored "**Candles in the Dark**" in 2002, a new spirit for a plural world. Edited by Barbara Sundberg Baudot, published by New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College, Manchester, NH.

In 2004, he co-authored "**The Trauma of Terrorism**": Sharing Knowledge and shared Care, an International handbook. Edited by Yael Danieli, PhD., Danny Brom, PhD., and Joe Sills, MA. Published by the Haworth Maltreatment and Trauma Press.

In 2005, he co-authored "**Conflict Prevention in Practice**": Edited by B.G. Ramcharan. Published by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.

In 2006, he co-authored "**La Minaccia del Terrorismo e le risposte dell' Antiterrorismo**" Edited by Francesco Cappe', Francesco Marelli

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and Angelo Zappala'. Published by Franco Angeli, Milan.

In 2007, he co-authored "**Afghanistan. How much of the Past in the New Future**" Edited by Giandomenico Picco and Antonio Luigi Palmisano. Published by I.S.I.G: Institute of International Sociology, Gorizia (Italy).

In 2011, he authored via through the Carnegie Council (in the US) and the Oxford Research Group (in the UK) a "**Suggestions for negotiations on Afghanistan**".

In 2012, "the oral history" of Iran-US relations in the 80's was published by James G. Blight and Janet M. Lang under the title "**Becoming enemies**" - Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., as he was defined as one of the "handful of former decision makers" who contributed to the oral history project.

## Articles

Mr. Picco is a contributor to foreign policy publications in various countries. He has written chapters in foreign policy books and has contributed articles to newspapers in numerous European countries.

Mr. Picco has published articles in **The Japan Times** (Japan), **Le Monde** (France), **Focus** (Germany), **The World Today** (United Kingdom), **Al-Riyadh** (Saudi Arabia), **Al Hayat** (Arab daily published in London), **La Repubblica** (Italian daily), **Corriere delle Sera** (Italian daily), **The Straits Times** (Singapore daily), **Foreign Affairs** (New York), **Politique Etrangère** (Paris), **Limes** (Italian quarterly), **Il Mondo**, (Italian business weekly), **L'Unita'** (Italia daily), **La Stampa** (Italian Daily), **The Washington Post** (USA) **The Daily Star** (Beirut), **The Guardian** (UK), **Al Monitor** (Washington DC). He has been an occasional commentator on oil related issues on **Bloomberg Television**.

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## **2014/2015 Speaking Engagements and Interviews**

Mr. Picco is a regular lecturer at international seminars, universities, and economic/political conferences.

### **October:**

**London, United Kingdom** - Chatham House (two speeches) and at Sigmund Freud Museum (Negotiating during the Cold War and)

**Geneva, Switzerland** - At the "Tallberg Foundation" meeting (The need for a new architecture in the Greater Levant)

### **November:**

**Eilat, Israel** - Key Note Speech at the meeting of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists.  
"The rise of the individual and the weakening of the Nation State".

### **December:**

**Texas, USA** - Bush School of Government and Public Service (Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>), Texas A&M University USA.

**Berlin, Germany** - Dialogue Series. This annual event, which is organized by the UNSSC in partnership with Germany's ZIF (Center for International Peace Operations) since 2009, brings together the Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (DSRSGs) in peace operations. The thematic focus of this year's edition is on **"Understanding a new generation of non-state armed groups"**.

### **A Selection of 2014 Interviews:**

- **BBC** World News, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Hard Talk: (26 minutes" no interruption). Repeated a number of times in different times zones.
- **CNN**, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, Interviews the following day after the BBC
- **RT** Russian TV, December 2014, 26 minutes interview, no interruption.



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## **Services**

Mr. Picco provides executives and company boards with economic and political updates and assessment of developments in certain areas of the greater Levant. Identifies joint venture partners and customers for Western Companies operating in the general area of the greater Levant and the Caucuses and helps them negotiating their relationship. He has provided more in depth assistance during negotiations between private and state companies. His clients have included energy companies, investment groups, and retail companies.