School of Public & International Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF CONFLICT

THE IRAN WAR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2027 | **RICHARD B. RUSSELL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIES**

The U.S. and Israeli attack on Iran, which began on February 28, 2026, has had lasting impacts on regional stability in the Middle East, international security, global trade and energy markets, and domestic politics in multiple countries. At the war's one-year mark, this event invites leading experts to reflect on the conflict, offering insights to the scholarly community, students, and the wider public. The event is free and open to the public.

SCAN TO REGISTER

10:00 – 11:30 AM	ROUNDTABLE	The Iran War and Middle East Politics
1:00 – 2:30 PM	ROUNDTABLE	Global Politics and Economics
3:00 – 4:30 PM	ROUNDTABLE	Implications for U.S. Politics and Foreign Policy
5:00 – 6:30 PM	KEYNOTE	Maj. Gen. Arnold L. Punaro, USMC (Ret.) and Dr. Ali Vaez

VISITOR PARKING AVAILABLE AT THE HULL STREET PARKING DECK

THE IRAN WAR: REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF CONFLICT

Tuesday, February 23, 2027

Richard B. Russell Special Collections Libraries, 300 South Hull Street
Auditorium, Room 271

ROUNDTABLES

10:00 – 11:30 AM

The Iran War and Middle East Politics

How the war has shaped politics inside Iran, and its effects on regional stability and geopolitics across the Middle East.

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Global Politics and Economics

The war's impact on international relations, security, and the global economy.

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Implications for U.S. Politics and Foreign Policy

What the war means for U.S. politics, elections, and foreign policy decision-making.

KEYNOTE

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Keynote with Maj. Gen. Arnold L. Punaro, USMC (Ret.) and Dr. Ali Vaez

Keynote remarks, followed by a moderated discussion and audience questions.



Maj. Gen. Arnold L. Punaro, USMC (Ret.)

The Punaro Group and University of Georgia

Major General Punaro served as Chairman of the Secretary of Defense's Reserve Forces Policy Board and of the National Defense Industrial Association, and is consistently named by *Defense News* among the top 100 national security leaders. He was staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Director of National Security to Senator Sam Nunn, and holds an M.A. from the University of Georgia.



Dr. Ali Vaez

International Crisis Group

Dr. Vaez advises U.S., European, and Middle Eastern officials and was intimately involved in the 2015 nuclear negotiations as Crisis Group's Iran Project Director. He previously served at the United Nations and the Federation of American Scientists, teaches at Georgetown University, and is co-author of *How Sanctions Work: Iran and the Impact of Economic Warfare*. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Geneva.

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THE IRAN WAR: REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF CONFLICT

Tuesday, February 23, 2027 · 10:00 AM – 6:30 PM

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Auditorium, Room 271

10:00 – 11:30 AM

ROUNDTABLE 1

The Iran War and Middle East Politics

How the war has shaped politics inside Iran, and its effects on regional stability and geopolitics across the Middle East.

Roya Izadi
Assistant Professor of Political Science and Associate Director, Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, University of Rhode Island

Salam Alsaadi
Assistant Professor of International Affairs, University of Georgia

Eli Sperling
Israel Institute Teaching Fellow, Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia

Azadeh Vatanpour
Director, Persian Cultural Center of Atlanta

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM — BREAK

1:00 – 2:30 PM

ROUNDTABLE 2

Global Politics and Economics

The war's impact on international relations, security, and the global economy.

Naomi Egel
Assistant Professor of International Affairs and Faculty Fellow, Center for International Trade and Security, University of Georgia

David Gattie
Associate Professor of Engineering and Senior Fellow, Center for International Trade and Security, University of Georgia

Roozbeh Hosseini
Associate Professor of Economics, Terry College of Business, University of Georgia

Cullen Hendrix
Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics

2:30 – 3:00 PM — BREAK

3:00 – 4:30 PM

ROUNDTABLE 3

Implications for U.S. Politics and Foreign Policy

What the war means for U.S. politics, elections, and foreign policy decision-making.

Alexa Bankert
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Georgia

Jamie Carson
UGA Athletic Association Professor of Public and International Affairs, Department of Political Science, University of Georgia

Josh Altman
Professor of the Practice, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology

Margaret Mullins
Director of Public Options and Governance, Vanderbilt Policy Accelerator, Vanderbilt University

4:30 – 5:00 PM — BREAK

5:00 – 6:30 PM

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION

Maj. Gen. Arnold L. Punaro, USMC (Ret.) and Dr. Ali Vaez

Keynote remarks, followed by a moderated discussion and audience questions.

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