

Aharonian Ara

Ara Aharonian, a French-Armenian pioneer entrepreneur, philanthropist, and community leader, was born in Beirut in 1956. Ara is valued, beyond for what he has or does, for who he is: a good, caring, humble man, and a faithful Christian, living by the teachings, "Do not seek the places of honor at banquets" and "When you give, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing."



After earning a BA in Economics from the [AUB](#) in 1979, Aharonian moved to France, where he completed a master's degree in business administration at [INSEAD](#) in 1981. In 1988, he founded [Francare](#), among other companies, which became a European leader in industrial equipment for the mining and Oil and Gaz industries, as well as medical technologies, with extensive operations across Africa, Middle East and South East Asia.

Aharonian is the grandson of [Kaspar Menak](#), a former French army officer and an emblematic figure of the Armenian community in Lebanon. Honoring his remarkable heritage, Ara was named a Knight of the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory the Great by His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

A man of integrity, compassion, and action, Aharonian has played a significant role in philanthropy and community service. He served as an active member and General Secretary of [AGBU France](#) and contributed to the Fondation Alliance Armenians, a philanthropic organization focused on child protection and supporting vulnerable elderly populations in Armenia. Additionally, he has been a major benefactor and President of the Fund dedicated to the [renovation](#) of the Sainte-Croix Cathedral of the Catholic Armenians of France.

Together with his supportive wife, Sylva, daughter of the late philanthropist Garo Krikorian of Sudan, the couple is committed to preserving and passing on their rich immaterial heritage to future generations.

The couple is blessed with two sons: Gary, a lawyer, and Leon, an engineer, who serve as pillars and the future of the various enterprises Aharonian has established.

Sources / Links

<https://www.paris.fr/pages/la-cathedrale-sainte-croix-des-armeniens-retrouve-sa-splendeur-6901>

<https://www.insead.edu/>

<https://francare.com/>