

Second Report:

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Abra Metz-Dworkin

Princeton in Latin America Fellow: *Human Rights Watch and the Center for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Buenos Aires, Argentina*

JJCF Board:

I write to provide an update as I near the end of the second half of my fellowship in Argentina. After almost six months, I have become fully integrated into a new network of people both in and outside of work. I have made connections and lasting friendships with my fellow Princeton in Latin America participants, with my colleagues both in and outside of Argentina, and with those I have met while living in Buenos Aires. Furthermore, my daily tasks and responsibilities over the past six months have all been carried out in Spanish, a requirement that has allowed my language and fluency to develop and solidify. My Princeton in Latin America Fellowship, and work with Human Rights Watch and with the Center for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information (CELE) at the University of Palermo Law School, have at the same time exposed me to a wide range of international human rights issues which have informed the views and experiences I will bring with me to law school next year. Given that each organization looks at these issues from a unique perspective, working with both has highlighted for me the inner-workings of and differences between the research and reporting activities of an international non-profit and of a university research center. It has also helped me to understand the difficulties and advantages of each type of organization – from the political and governmental pressures, to the funding difficulties, to the issues of dispersing and publicizing issues of human rights to the general public – that each face.

At Human Rights Watch, I have continued to work directly with the organization's Latin American regional director, and have established additional ties with the organization's researchers both throughout Latin America and in the United States, who I assist on a variety of projects and assignments. My responsibilities of late have included daily media monitoring of Latin American newspapers for critical human rights issues, investigating and reporting on emerging issues in the press and watching for critical developments in target countries in Latin America. I have also been involved with helping to research, translate, and edit an *amicus curiae* brief filed with the Constitutional Court of Peru regarding the jurisdiction of the country's military courts. I have also been responsible for conducting interviews with various reporters and political activists on topics relevant to my focus countries and region, both in person and over the phone – and speaking with critical human rights advocates who can help to shed light on the situations on the ground in these areas.

Meanwhile, at CELE, I have continued to work with the director of the center and other faculty at the University of Palermo, where I have been responsible for researching, drafting, and translating a variety of texts, articles, and documents for publication. Many of these documents are published in academic journals and blogs, or are distributed amongst experts in the field of freedom of expression and access to information in Latin America. I have also had the opportunity to participate in workshops and events at the University of Palermo with visiting law

students and professors on the impact and evolution of these issues in the region . Most recently, I translated and edited a large volume of articles on public policy and legislation affecting archiving and document management procedures in the region for publication.

The past six months have provided me with an invaluable view into the world of international human rights advocacy and research, and it has helped prepare me with a diverse set of experiences and nuanced perspectives that I will take with me to my upcoming matriculation at law school and to my future career as a lawyer. From the rights of indigenous peoples, freedom of expression, access to information, women's right, and government corruption, to critical legislation and legal changes to laws in the region, I have learned a great deal about the diverse issues facing Latin America today in the realms of human rights and civil liberties. At the same time, I have been thrilled to see the developments that are occurring simultaneously in these areas throughout the region. For that, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Jennifer Jessica Cohen Foundation for its generosity in helping to fund my experience here in Argentina this past year. My time in Argentina has been a remarkable learning opportunity for me, and the support of JJCF has allowed me to participate in and contribute to these two organizations as a Princeton in Latin America fellow. Thank you again so much for supporting my work here.

Sincerely,

Abra Metz-Dworkin