

First Report:

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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 on my time thus far in Argentina. I arrived just over two months, and have had a wonderful introduction to Buenos Aires at the peak of summer. The city is beautiful, I have had extensive practice with and am feeling confident with the Spanish language in both work and social settings, and I am starting to develop and build a great network of friends and colleagues in the city. 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 been greatly rewarding experiences thus far.

At Human Rights Watch, I work directly with the organization's Latin American regional director and a team of experts across the region and North America. As a result, I communicate and work daily with researchers throughout the Americas on Human Rights Watch's key focus issues and projects. My responsibilities consist of media monitoring, investigating, and reporting on human rights issues in Central and South America while examining associated international treaties, conventions, and laws. The reporting and monitoring assignments I am given continually challenge me and keep me abreast of critical issues – from elections, to politics, minority groups, refugees, to civil unrest, and a general overview of international relations and communications – emerging throughout Latin America. My work for Human Rights Watch has, at the same time, afforded me broad exposure to the workings of international legal bodies and a deeper understanding of the relevant legal doctrines at play with regard to issues of human rights in Central and South America. I look forward to continuing this work, becoming more and more integrated into the Human Rights Watch team, and being able to specialize on certain countries and focus areas as I develop expertise on some of these countries and topics.

Meanwhile, I have been working with professors at CELE, a legal research center run by faculty at the University of Palermo in Buenos Aires, on research related to access to information as a fundamental human right in Latin America. More specifically, I have been assisting with researching and drafting a report that analyzes media ownership and comparative access to information in the region, and I will be responsible for translating the final version of the report for submission in English. I am also helping my team at CELE to research and write a report related to freedom of expression on the internet in Argentina, as part of a multinational collaboration and effort to provide a comparative evaluation of internet and digital media around the world. In addition to these primary assignments, I help the CELE team to edit and publish reports related to freedom of expression, access to information, and information archiving procedures in Argentina and throughout Latin America. In the coming months, I will also be helping the university to plan and coordinate workshops and lectures for faculty and students at the University of Palermo, often including visiting professors and scholars who will

come to Buenos Aires and to the university to discuss and partner with CELE faculty and students on solutions to these issues throughout the region.

I am fortunate to have found inspiring mentors here who have helped me to build upon my foundation in international human rights advocacy, a field that I began exploring through a blend of criminal defense and international legal work at the Mexican Capital Legal Assistance Program. The brief look I have had so far into international human rights advocacy as a Princeton in Latin America fellow, and thanks to the support of JJCF, has broadened my perspective. At the same time, it has informed the path I will pursue next year as a law student, where I hope to participate in international human rights law classes and clinics, as well as externships with international human rights organizations.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Jennifer Jessica Cohen Foundation and its supporters for helping to make my experiences here in Argentina possible, and for allowing me to contribute to two dynamic and interesting organizations and gain experience with both a critical international non-profit and an international education institution – both focused on international human rights. Thus far, my time in Argentina has been a remarkable learning opportunity for me, and the support of JJCF has contributed to the impact I am making and will continue to make here as a Princeton in Latin America fellow with my host organizations. Thank you again so much for supporting my work here.