

PS123A: Politics of International Law

Human Rights Assignment

“They Stay Until They Die”: A Lifetime of Isolation and Neglect in Institutions for People with Disabilities in Brazil

In 2018, the Human Rights Watch published a report on the treatment of people with disabilities in Brazil. You are being asked to represent some of the victims, who would like to bring a case against Brazil at an international human rights venue. The report is available on the course webpage, under Week 4.

Based on the information provided in this report, as well as the appendix on Brazil’s human rights obligations, write a brief report (3-5 double-spaced pages) addressing the following:

1. Identify three human rights claims that might be brought against Brazil. For each, you should reference a specific treaty article, and explain how the evidence in this report indicates that Brazil has violated this right. *(Hint: Recall that you are being given the list of Brazil’s treaty obligations, but not the text of those treaties. You are expected to look up the treaty text to identify specific articles and rights. You can enter any of these treaties into Google to pull up the text. You can also follow the hyperlinks cited in the footnotes.)*
2. Recommend one international human rights venue that you believe would be the most effective forum for bringing these claims against Brazil. This must be a venue that has jurisdiction over Brazil. In recommending this venue, you should also explain a) what other venues you considered and b) why you believe the one you’ve selected is the best choice. *(Hint: There are some incorrect answers – like the European Court of Human Rights – but among the applicable venues, there is no correct answer for which one is “best”. This is your opinion. You are being evaluated on your ability to pick an appropriate venue and to provide a reasonable and true explanation for why you believe the venue is the best.)*

Submission Instructions

- This assignment is due at 1:00pm on Wednesday, September 5. You must submit both an **electronic copy** using the TurnItIn link on Week 5 of the course webpage and a **hard copy** that you will turn in at the beginning of lecture. If you will not be in lecture that day, you must turn in the hard copy of the assignment before 1:00pm on September 5, unless given express permission previously.
- Late assignments on TurnItIn will be penalized 1 point (of 50) for every 8 hours or fraction thereof, beginning at 1:01pm. Late hard copies will be penalized 1 point (of 50) for every 8 hours or fraction thereof, beginning at 1:01pm. If both versions are late, you will lose 2 points for every 8 hours or fraction thereof. Note that this translates roughly into losing 1/3 of a letter grade for every 8 hours both versions are late, or an entire letter grade for every 24 hours.

- Because you have one week to do the assignment, extensions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- Do not email the assignment. Only TurnItIn and hard copy submissions will be accepted.

Assignment Instructions

- You may consult your notes, the readings, and the internet, but not, under any circumstances, each other. Your work should be your own. This is not a group assignment.
- I will answer clarifying questions via email until 1:00pm on Tuesday, September 4. I will not discuss the assignment in office hours or read drafts.
- Your response should be typed, double-spaced, in 11pt or 12pt font. There is no minimum or maximum page length, although I anticipate good responses will be 3-5 pages.
- All outside information should be cited. Since I know all of the treaties you are referencing, you only need to include the name of the treaty, article, and paragraph (i.e., “American Convention on Human Rights, Art. 1(1)”). You do not need to provide all of the usual information that goes along with citing treaties, although if you are curious, you can see <http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2013/09/citing-treaties-and-other-international-agreements.html>. If you cite any material other than the treaties in the appendix and the Human Rights Watch report, however, you must provide a full citation. It doesn’t matter which citation rules you use (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) but please be consistent throughout your response.