

INFORMED CONSENT FOR NON-MEDICAL RESEARCH¹

Paper on Critiques to Human Rights Legal Activism: THE INDUSTRY OF ADVOCACY

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by VALENTINA MONTOYA (SJD Candidate Harvard Law School) and JUAN SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ (LL.M by Research McGill University, Faculty of Law), because you are a legal activist fighting for social justice and human rights. Your participation is voluntary. You should read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether to participate. Please take as much time as you need to read the consent form. You may also decide to discuss participation with your family or friends. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign this form. You will be given a copy of this form.

TIME INVOLVEMENT

Your participation will take approximately 15 minutes.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study aims at understanding the current problems of human rights legal activism at the international and domestic level from a critical perspective to assess what can be done to improve this legal practice.

STUDY PROCEDURES

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to respond to a short semi-structured interview based on your experience as a human rights legal activist. The interview will be conducted in Spanish or English, according to your desire, by one of the authors of this paper. We will conduct the interview either in person or through Skype, after setting up an appointment that is more convenient for you.

The interview will include open questions regarding obstacles you have found in legal activism, your response to those obstacles, your decision to become a legal activism, particular examples of problems you have encountered on your professional life as a legal activist and what you think could be solve them. The interview will be audio-recorded if you allow so.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

There is the risk that someone identifies where you work, but in order to avoid this, your personal information and the name of your employer organization will remain anonymous.

¹ Based on Stanford University Research Consent Form for nonmedical human subject research.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR TO SOCIETY

There are no anticipated direct benefits for you. As this is a research study, the benefits are contingent upon the results. Society will benefit from this research as we will provide insight on the current problems in activism and discuss possible solutions that different human rights organizations and activists can implement to face some of the obstacles.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We will keep your records for this study confidential as far as permitted by law. However, if we are required to do so by law, we will disclose confidential information about you. The members of the research team may access the data.

The data will be stored in a digital version in the personal files of the researchers who will be the only ones having access to the interviews. **You have the right to review the audio-recordings or transcripts. The audio-recordings will not be used for educational purposes or for any other purposes apart from this paper. Your name and organization will be held anonymous.**

The data will be kept for three years following the date of the interview. When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences, no identifiable information will be used.

PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

Your participation is voluntary. Your refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. The alternative is not to participate. You have the right to refuse to answer particular questions. The results of this research study may be presented at scientific or professional meetings or published in scientific journals. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about this research, its procedures, risks and benefits, please feel free to contact Juan Sebastian Rodriguez, Principal Researcher, juan.rodriiguezalarcon@mail.mcgill.ca; and Valentina Montoya, Principal Researcher, vmontoyarobledo@sjd.law.harvard.edu.

SIGNATURE OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

I have read the information provided above. I have been given a chance to ask questions. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.

AUDIO

I agree to be audio-recorded

___ Yes ___ No

IDENTITY

I give consent for my identity to be revealed in written materials resulting from this study:

___ Yes ___ No

Name of Participant

Signature of Participant

Date

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

I have explained the research to the participant and answered all of his/her questions. I believe that he/she understands the information described in this document and freely consents to participate.

Name of Person Obtaining Consent

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

Date