



The subject of human rights is without a doubt one of most important and debated topics in Argentina today. In 2006, Argentina will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the 1976 military coup which lasted until 1983. This seven year period saw an estimated 30,000 civilians 'disappear' and many thousands more subjected to atrocious human rights violations – notably kidnap and torture. During the time that this all took place, few dared to speak out with the exception of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo. Until very recently this group held vigils to demand recognition of the crimes.

Currently, both the Argentine government is beginning to show sympathy for the human rights violations of the seventies and eighties. President Kirchner recently promised to bring the perpetrators to justice. In 2003 the congress rolled back measures taken in the late eighties and nineties by previous Argentine administrations to pardon former military officials that were guilty of human rights abuses during the dictatorship. In 2005 these were overturned by a Supreme Court ruling, opening the way to detention and prosecution of suspects. Until Argentina takes the steps necessary to put to justice those guilty of the kidnappings, tortures, and murders, it's people will not be able to heal the open wounds that they have been suffering from during the last thirty years.

FSD has many partner organizations that work directly towards the accountability and reconciliation of the human rights violations that took place during the dictatorship. It is an ideal place to observe and participate in the implementation of human rights law enforcement and reconciliation.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in human rights in Argentina include:

- Give counsel to individuals whose rights were violated following judgments during the era of the dictatorship. Support legal action against ex-leaders with impunity.
- Provide legal counseling to vulnerable families whose children work in the streets and for people who've suffered intra-familial violence and sexual abuse.
- Offer workshops on human rights issues at schools; promote rights through community activities such as lectures and concerts; and/or participate in a weekly radio program discussing related issues.
- Develop content for an organization's newspaper, radio program and/or webpage to further the protection of human rights in the local region.
- Teach children and adolescents about citizen rights, the constitution, and principles of living in a democracy. Provide a forum for the students to express their ideas, opinions, and concerns related to pressing social issues.
- Assist programs that provide for the special needs of handicapped and underserved individuals. These include a national campaign for societal awareness regarding marginalization and disabilities. The campaign also assigns adapted wheelchairs and other needed articles that assist the daily lives of disabled persons.

For more opportunities in human rights in Argentina, visit our website or contact us directly.