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**Brazil**

Thanks to the amazing support of the Scott Kloeck-Jenson Pre-dissertation Travel Fellowship, I had the excellent opportunity to conduct my research in the Brazilian Amazon. The Fellowship allowed me to gather data for my study of forced labor in the region as my research is about the impact of agreements made between Greenpeace and the four main meatpackers in Brazil. The companies pledged not to trade cattle from areas tainted with deforestation and forced labor practices. Preliminary data from my research indicate that the state of Pará comprised of more than 30% of the Brazilian forced labor cases between 2003 and 2017. At least 200 of these cases were specifically associated with the cattle industry.

Through this fellowship, I was able to gather data to understand what is happening with the forced labor cases associated with the cattle sector and specifically answer how forced labor is being used, how the Brazilian judicial body decides on forced labor cases, and how the labor conditions of each laborer was subsequently improved. It noteworthy that without the Scott Kloeck-Jenson Pre-dissertation Travel Fellowship, it would have been very difficult to collect trustworthy data about forced labor practices in the Brazilian Amazon.

During my fieldwork trip, I went to Belém, Castanhal, and Paragominas. The first city is the capital of the state of Pará and the other two are rural areas of Pará. The state is located in the Brazilian Amazon where there is a high concentration of forced labor in Brazil. Once in Belém, I had meetings with important stakeholders that deal with forced labor in Pará, such as federal prosecutors, federal labor prosecutors, labor lawyers, labor judges, and scholars. The meetings helped me to understand the fight against forced labor in the state and evaluate the weaknesses faced by the stakeholders. They are important players in analyzing the forced labor issue due to their closeness to the perpetrators and workers.

Usually, federal labor prosecutors and federal policymakers participate in a workgroup that goes to the countryside of Pará and stays there for days. They visit places where they suspect farmers are using forced laborers. When they verify that there are forced labor conditions they give a notice to the perpetrators. The notice begins an administrative procedure to check if forced labor practices are in fact occurring on the farm. The document provides describes the work conditions of the laborers and who the perpetrators were. When the procedure ends with recognizing that there were in fact forced labor practices, federal prosecutors begin the judicial procedure through a criminal prosecution.

Being in Belém, Castanhal, and Paragominas allowed me to visit the Courts of Justices to access the criminal judicial decisions about forced labor in the state of Pará. The visit was profitable because I could gather decisions on forced labor from 2001 to 2016. I collected more than one hundred judgments that helped me to also understand why forced labor practices are highly associated with deforestation. The decisions pointed out that forced laborers are used to “clear-cutting” on the cattle farms. However, the high number of lawsuits filed based on forced labor practices over the years suggests that the fight against forced labor cannot rely on the stakeholders’ actions only.

Overall, my fieldwork trip to Brazil revealed some obstacles in the ordinary labor legal structures. Knowing the limits, I can go further and propose ways to strengthen the fight against forced labor in the state of Pará, such as improving the provisions of the agreements made between the Greenpeace and

the meatpackers. Such insight was only possible due to my *in loco* research sponsored by the Scott Kloeck-Jenson Pre-dissertation Travel Fellowship.

I am certain that all of the data, experience, and networks gained during my visit to Brazil will be greatly used throughout my PhD research project. I hope to create positive impact in the labor protection standards for rural workers in the country. Thanks to the Jenson family I am able to positively change the lives of others and that truly makes me happy.