Welcome to International Human Rights Advocacy! We will not use an assigned textbook in this class. Instead, we will rely on sources that can be accessed electronically (e.g., through the Internet, Westlaw, etc.) or through the library. In preparation for our first class, please explore the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights website:

- [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/Home.aspx)

Please especially peruse the following links on that page:

- the link at the top labeled “What Are Human Rights?,”
- the tabs across the top labeled “About Us,” “Issues,” “Human Rights Bodies,” and “Publications and Resources,” and
- the Quick Selection at the bottom labeled “Civil Society.”

Please also explore the International Justice Resource Center website:


Please especially peruse the following links at the top of that page:

- “Human Rights Law,”
- “Courts & Monitoring Bodies,” and
- “Media & Publications.”

When exploring these websites, please think about the following questions and be prepared to discuss them in class (you do not have to hand in your answers):

1. Why do so many different kinds of human rights mechanisms exist? What are their roles and goals? How effective are they, and how could they be even more effective?

2. How can civil society (e.g., non-governmental organizations) influence the human rights mechanisms? Try to come up with as many different ways as you can, and think about which are most effective and why.

3. What are some of the most important issues that are addressed by human rights mechanisms? What issues are missing?