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## Introduction Human Rights and States of Emergency: Unexpected Crisis and New Challenges

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# HUMAN RIGHTS AND STATES OF EMERGENCY: UNEXPECTED CRISIS AND NEW CHALLENGES

## INTRODUCTION

CLAUDIA MARTIN & DIEGO RODRIGUEZ-PINZON\*

We are delighted to present this year's special issue of the *American University International Law Review* and the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, which includes two of the best essays in English and in Spanish recognized in the 2021 Human Rights Essay Award competition. It is satisfying to think that this competition allowed a number of participants an opportunity to expound their thoughts on so many important topics, regarding so many areas of the world. We hope these participants are able to use their articles as mechanisms for change.

The quality of the essays was outstanding, making the final decision difficult. We would like to recognize everyone who participated in the competition and mainly the two winners, Roman Girma Teshome from the Netherlands and Paula Roko from Argentina. In addition, a final decision would not be possible without the exceptional work from the members of the Honor Jury who read and evaluated the articles.

The goal of this publication and of the essay competition is to provide an academic venue for scholarly legal writing by human rights experts and activists. By publishing their work, we seek to contribute quality legal writings on particular topics of relevance to the development of this dynamic area of the law. The book also reflects the diversity of cultures and languages that characterizes our interconnected world. By publishing articles in English and Spanish,

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\* Co-Directors, Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

we enhance and broaden the voices that shape international human rights and humanitarian law in the future.

We want to thank Sophie Lin, Editor-in-Chief, and Jared Green, Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Book Editor, of the *American University International Law Review*, for their dedication and hard work, which made this project a reality.