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«The environmental protection at times of armed conflicts»

(Защита окружающей среды во время вооруженных конфликтов)

City: *Stockholm*

Internship: *March-May 2018*

## **REPORT**

An internship at the Law faculty of Stockholm University was one of the most memorable and wonderful periods of my life. I would like to thank all members of the Sverker Åström Foundation's Board for giving me the opportunity to conduct my research project in Sweden, get new experience and knowledge. I'd like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Head of the Sverker Åström Foundation - *Disa Håstad*, who devotes herself to this important program for international relationships and science, sparing no effort and time. From the very beginning (from applying for a visa and securing accommodation to finding important contacts) and until the end of my stay in Stockholm Disa always helped me! Disa's kind attitude to scholars is impossible to overestimate.

I am a master student at the Law faculty of Kazan Federal University, and the main fields of my academic interests are international humanitarian law (law of armed conflicts) and international human rights law. During my studying, I have always paid my attention to the issue of the effectiveness of the environmental protection at times of armed conflicts. The main reason is that contemporary armed conflicts are accompanied by damage to the environment, for instance, by using indiscriminate weapons or weapons of mass destruction. I had no opportunity to conduct complete and comprehensive research at my University, but Sverker Åström Foundation and Stockholm University gave it to me.

During three months, I have been conducting the research under the supervision of *Professor Pål Wrangé*, who provided me with perfect work

conditions, all necessary access and books. Worth to mention, Stockholm University has a great collection of books on international law.



I also had a great opportunity to attend lectures of prominent specialists in the different fields of international law arranged by the Stockholm Center for International Law and Justice.



Conducting research at the Stockholm University I had an amazing chance to get acquainted with highly recognized specialists in my field (Professors *Pål Wrangé*, *Mark Klamberg*, *Said Mahmoudi*), discuss actual problems and share my knowledge and experience. Moreover, not only

professors, but also doctoral students gave me valuable advice and recommendations on my topic during my final presentation at the end of May.

It seems that my internship would not be so great and memorable if there was not a cultural part of the program. Among them are “tea parties” hosted by *Örjan Berner and Lars Anell*; *Easter program* with attending churches and castles, dinners organized by Disa where she invited her friends (among them were former ambassadors, diplomats, politicians, publishers). I can't help but mention the acquaintance with *Mr. Hans Corell*, who served as Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations from March 1994 to March 2004.



I have always been interested in Scandinavia region, and when I arrived in Sweden I began learning the Swedish language. Immersed in the culture of

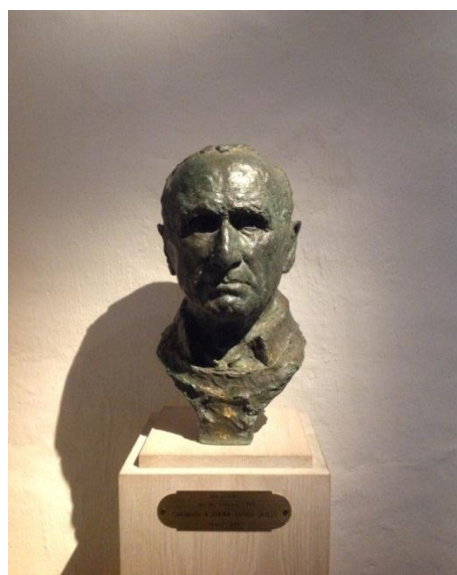


Sweden I have been learning the language with great enthusiasm and pleasure.

I was also impressed how life is ordered and thought out in Sweden. I had no idea that in Sweden there are *no stray dogs* and almost all cats and dogs are chipped and have insurance. I knew that garbage is sorted and recycled, but I was surprised that almost *every* family sorts garbage. I've seen the police work, it was very professional, and it promotes trust and respect for the police officers in Sweden. I also knew that Swedish authorities and people care about nature, but I was surprised that Sweden does not cut down trees on its territory, but import the wood. I can continue a list of my findings further, but I am afraid of exceeding the length and size of my report.

Studying at the University, I have never thought that there is a program which allows students from Russia to conduct research in the other country, and moreover, I could not imagine that I would become a part of such important program in the future. It had happened, and I am very happy. I have been living in Sweden for three months, worked at one of the top Universities, got to know a great number of interesting and intelligent people, obtained new knowledge and life experience. I will remember it forever. Thank you!

Ruslan Sharipov,  
Kazan, 2018



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