

Roaming Charges

Moments of Dignity: Love and Care

We deal in EJIL with the world we live in – often with its worst and most violent pathologies, often with its most promising signs of hope for a better world. But, inevitably, since our vehicle is scholarship, we reify this world. Roaming Charges is designed not just to offer a moment of aesthetic relief, but to remind us of the ultimate subject of our scholarly reflections: we alternate between photos of places – the world we live in – and photos of people – who we are, the human condition. We eschew the direct programmatic photograph: people shot up; the ravages of pollution or the latest group photograph of ICJ judges.

‘Roaming’, ‘Charges’, and those irritating ‘Roaming Charges’ – was chosen because of the multiple and at times conflicting meanings, feelings and associations the words, jointly and severally, evoke and which we hope to capture in our choice of photographs. As we roam around the world we aim for images which charge us: please and challenge, even irritate, at the same time. We seek photos which have some ambiguity, are edgy and relate in an indirect way, both to the current circumstance but also to that which is, like human dignity, permanent and enduring.

Moments of Dignity: these photographs, always of human subjects, are rooted in what many of us consider one of our most fundamental ontological values. Human dignity resides in everyone, with no distinction related to age, gender, nationality, occupation, geographic location, and more. This ontological value denotes both a fundamental equality – the life of no one has more intrinsic worth than others – and, at the same time a fundamental difference – each human is unique, and not fungible with anyone else. The photographs try to capture this existential reality.

Take a moment – enjoy, reflect. If you are online, pause before the next click.

Readers of EJIL are welcome to submit their photographic work.



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