

Habeas Corpus as an Animal Right

In 2005, a group of humans from Brazil pleaded before one of their national courts that a chimpanzee named Suica was to be released from the zoo where she was kept in detention. Their legal strategy rested on the concept of Habeas Corpus and on the claim that certain non-human animals were so similar to human beings that they had a similar right to bodily liberty. Almost 15 years later, this legal strategy has been used across the American continent, from Brazil to the United States, from Colombia to Argentina. In most cases, the goal was not only to get the release of the non-human animals but to try and change the national legal system as a whole. This presentation aims at providing a general overview of these cases and will focus in particular on Argentina where the great apes were actually released from their current form of detention.



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