ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

A Ph.D. thesis is generally a piece of creativity to which a lot of people directly or indirectly contribute. The first and the foremost, praises and thanks to the God, the Almighty Father, for showering of heavenly blessings on me throughout this research work that enabled me to complete it successfully. I also feel deeply indebted to a lot many people who have greatly inspired and whole-heartedly supported me during my doctoral research work.

I owe the first debt of gratitude to my learned supervisor Dr. Gurjeet Singh, Professor of Law, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and formerly the Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi National Law University, Punjab at Patiala and currently the Vice-Chancellor of the National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam at Guwahati, for encouraging me to pursue doctoral research on an interdisciplinary topic relating to history and law. As a supervisor, he has constantly been advising me to remain focused on achieving my goal. His unmatched dynamism, far-sighted vision, utmost sincerity and constant motivation have always inspired me a lot. He was undoubtedly an erudite supervisor and I have learnt immensely from my association with him, both as a junior colleague as well as a doctoral researcher. He graciously provided invaluable comments and important suggestions during the writing of the thesis for which I shall remain extremely grateful to him. I will always remember his encouraging words that boosted my morale when it was its lowest ebb. It was indeed a great privilege and a rare honor to work and study under his able and mature guidance.

I feel equally indebted to my learned co-supervisor Professor Dr. Y.P. Bajaj, formerly Chairman, Department of History at Punjabi University, Patiala for his invaluable help, constant support and timely guidance. Working under Professor Bajaj was like a dream come true for me. Whereas Professor Gurjeet Singh brought to bear his sharp legal acumen in this work, Professor Bajaj, an equally learned and a competent supervisor, kept me on the right track by way of guiding me on the issue of systematically highlighting the various important national and international historical events that shaped and consolidated the human rights movement as we see it today. Thus, my sincere thanks are due to both my learned supervisors
for their so able and wonderful supervision. I have no hesitation in writing that I considered myself very fortunate in having worked under the two internationally acclaimed academicians, intellectuals and authorities in their respective subjects, a rare honour and a privilege for any budding researcher working on an inter-disciplinary topic.

I would also like to thank Professor Rehmatullah Khan, the then Secretary General of the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi as well as two of my former learned teachers, namely, Professor Dr. Sukhwant Singh and Professor Dr. Harish Sharma of the Department of History at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, for their critical comments and thoughtful suggestions offered to me during the initial stages of the this work.

I also owe a huge debt of gratitude to our worthy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. P.S. Jaswal and to the Registrar, Professor Dr. G.I.S Sandhu for their unconditional help and support at all times thereby enabling me to complete this work successfully.

My sincere thanks are also due to Ms. Maja Daruwala, Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and to Mr. Ravi Nair, Director of the South Asian Human Rights Documentation Centre, New Delhi for sparing their valuable time for enlightening me with their thoughts at the very outset. Interacting with both the internationally acclaimed human rights activists was indeed a learning experience for me.

I am especially indebted to all the learned members of the Doctoral Committee and the Research Advisory Committee who have always been guiding me with by way of offering their invaluable suggestions over the last five years. I have no hesitation to admit that their suggestions have become an integral part of my research work.

I am also thankful to all my learned colleagues, members of the administrative and the academic staff at Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab at Patiala for their ever supporting attitude.

I would also like to thank the library staff of the Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar; the India International Centre (IIC), the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) the Indian Law Institute (ILI), the Indian Society of
International Law (ISIL), the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi; Punjabi University, Patiala and Panjab University Chandigarh.

My sincere appreciation for my loving and caring Husband Avtar who was always there whenever I needed him. But for his help, support and understanding, this thesis would not have been completed on time. He showed extreme patience and cooperated with me on each and every front and stood by me all through. My little angel Akshita also deserves my hearty thanks for coping with my extremely busy academic routine and for permitting me to remain engaged in my studies and research, thus sacrificing her rightful share of attention.

My special thanks are also due to my mother Dr. (Mrs.) Sudha Sharma for the immense sacrifices that she made while she brought me up as a single parent and for monitoring my academic progress step by step and for always being there as a pillar of strength. It was she who never ever let me feel the absence of my father from my life and performed the role of a double parent for me very very gracefully and in a highly responsible manner. I would like to very humbly acknowledge the invaluable contribution of my mother in my life. Whatever I am today, it is because of her and her alone. Words are inadequate to thank her.

The thesis is dedicated to my late father Dr. Mohan Sharma, who have had all through been a source of encouragement and inspiration for me. Even though he is not physically present with me today, his words of wisdom sound like music in my ears. I am of the firm view that I could complete this thesis solely due to his heavenly blessings.

Finally, my hearty thanks go to all those people who have helped me directly or indirectly to enable me to complete the present research work within the stipulated time. There are many others about whom I should mention here - people who provided me support when I did not even realize that I needed it. Listing all of them is not possible so I will have to limit myself to a few words: I thank you All!

RGNUL, Patiala
30 June 2013
Rachna Sharma
Rajiv Gandhi National Univ. of Law, Punjab