



Magali Ramirez – Week 5

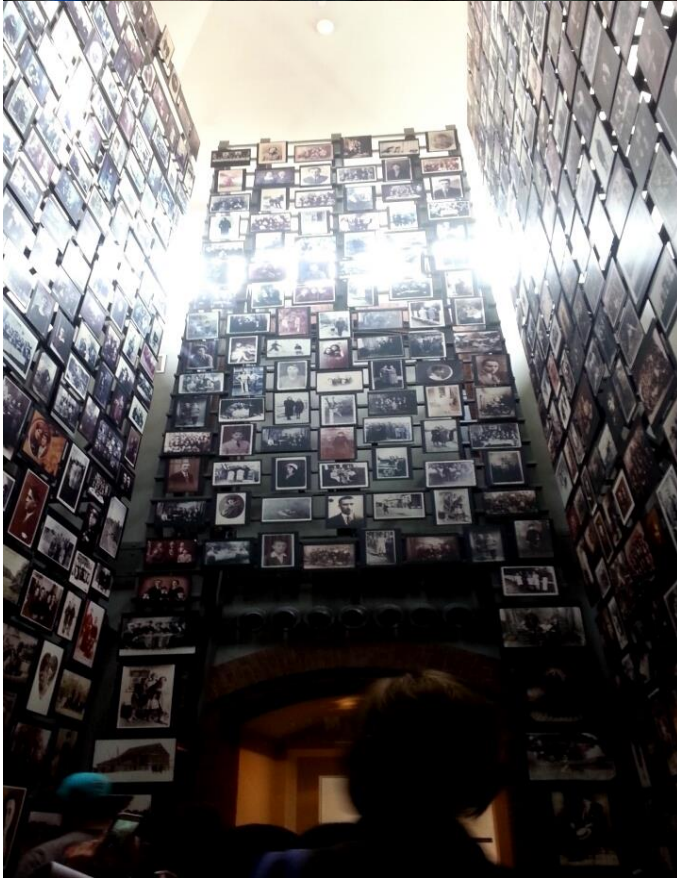
Last Wednesday, I attended a hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. The hearing discussed counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and the challenges of 'Going Dark'. I was so excited to attend this hearing because it is a big issue and something I'm very interested in. The director of the FBI, James Comey, was testifying before the Senators! How cool!?! The hearing room was locked up with security! Much of the discussion was on how to stop ISIS and other terrorist groups from recruiting people via social media. The FBI has found it hard to track down ISIS recruiters because they use strong encryptions preventing them from being found in the technology world. From what I gathered at the hearing, the members at the FBI and the Senators struggle to find the balance between protecting people's right to privacy, via social media and protecting American lives in the technology world nationwide. The discussion overall was great and I learned a lot. Terrorism and counterterrorism is a big deal and it is something I'm very interested in studying more about.

I'm loving DC because I'm finding what I'm really passionate about through the opportunities of attending hearings and briefings. I'm so excited for my future where ever it may take me.

I've attended 4 hearing so far and I really enjoy going to them, but I'm going to start going to one every day. I realize that this is a one-time opportunity I may never get again. Of course I would like to intern on the Hill again in the future but for now I need to take advantage of what in have.



This weekend was Old Town Alexandria's birthday. My friends and I went to see the fireworks. It was a second fourth of July for us! It was a fun time making memories!



I also went to the Holocaust Museum which was pretty cool but heart breaking at the same time.