# Advocacy Practice – Raineer Chu

Important factors in urban land rights advocacy (hopefully you will realize I am not adding to your load of work but making it easier by giving you more ideas to put inside your paper, you don’t need to include any or all of these inputs, just help you get some directions into a more fruitful and meaningful research).

1. The student needs to understand the causes of land dispossession:
2. Defining the problem correctly is already half the solution
3. The number one cause is urban migration where millions are looking for jobs in the city
4. also poor or absence of urban planning
   1. eg. high rise is the most economical solution to urban congestion
5. also the inhuman capitalist policies that do not provide for decent housing for the cheap labor being exploited,
6. and finally, oppressive laws that take a long time, very protracted, and very expensive
   1. laws on eviction,
   2. titling and fake titles, and
   3. super heavy bureaucracy and red tape.
7. the student needs to find and craft solutions to dispossession:
8. that land tenure or land security can promote development and you need lots of data and statistics
   1. on this especially how many are squatters, where are the relocation areas, are there laws for relocation and housing
   2. price of land
   3. price and how to make vertical improvements, low cost housing, sewerage, water, electricity
   4. access to infrastructures, transportation, health services
9. there is a need to become well versed with the local laws and customs on titling, housing, and relocation, tagging
10. it will likely require organizing the people and networking with others in order to have a bigger leverage
    1. study how to get monthly contributions, do savings
    2. they need a big pool of money for expenses that are certain to come
       1. lawyer
       2. surveyor
       3. follow up transportation costs
       4. registration
11. make a survey, interview, questionnaires, get all your data complete
    1. what kind of land is it, any title, untitled, dangerous area, flood prone, technical boundaries, mapping or geodetic survey and subdivision of the land into individual units
    2. what kind of occupation – squatting, renting, sharer, disqualified individuals who already own land or already granted previously housing
    3. what organization experience the community have
    4. what resources available, leaders, local organizers and workers, mostly women I think so be careful not tax them too much with work load
12. one must make sure one is heard – you need to broadcast through the internet, make youtube videos, email, text and create a loud voice,
13. you may also need to lobby or get elected as a politician,
14. you will need to train and educate as many as you can, persistently and patiently, even while in jail,
15. you must learn to define the issues
    1. and find an easy adversary, one you can an easily overcome,
    2. find a winnable cause
    3. go for quick easy victories at the start then work towards harder ones or else your people will get discouraged
    4. develop their muscles and faith first, slowly
16. The student also needs to prepare himself, herself for advocacy or to become an advocate for the landless urban poor
17. The student needs to be contemplative
    1. In order to pace yourself and not get burned out
    2. find your inner peace your peace with Jesus, to become a peace maker one must have peace inside himself
    3. you need to fervently pray and discern what God is doing and then pray unceasingly for the solution God shows you
    4. always expect a miracle because it is cheaper and faster
    5. see the whole of humanity, not just the enemy or the people but all of mankind, the survival of the species. We are all in this together and we must unite in order to survive, even loving our enemies
18. be willing to go to jail and suffer setbacks
19. have a good theological grounding that is usable,
    1. it is not land rights in the bible applied to Israel that is applicable here, land rights for urban poor is a function of capital. There are lots of vacant land elsewhere but the urban poor does not want those
    2. make a theoretical model or theological model as a framework for doing what you are doing, it’s a useful thing you can hang all your concepts on, like a clothes rack
    3. it should include role of women, biblical basis, economic theories, correlations or cause and effect
    4. draw diagrams, progress flow, arrows of connectivity of variables dependent and independent
20. look at your own backyard
    1. America is not willing to join the carbon emission convention
    2. The Sioux first nation’s land is still a boiling issue
    3. John F. Kennedy exerted lots of effort to silence Martin Luther King Jr who was causing much stir while Kennedy was fighting communism by making it appear that communism was evil and oppressive and dictatorial; all the while in Alabama and Mississippi thousands of black youth were being jailed for just wanting a seat in the bus
21. practice making a flow chart of your entire journey until the end
    1. see the end clearly, begin with the end in mind
    2. make a detailed work flow to see what lies ahead, the scope of work, consult with experts in making this
22. learn to organize communities
    1. do social preparations to allow the community to get ready for a big adjustment in their cash flow, the big and long effort to acquire the land
    2. learn conflict resolution reconciliation
    3. learn the art of negotiation and
    4. politics, the deadly and dirty art of the possible, the art of compromise
23. learn to tell stories
    1. it is stories that change the world
    2. the big corporations and big businesses do not lead, they follow trends, they don’t create markets, we do
    3. if we tell our stories and we all tell our stories, according to former Hollywood movie director tom shadyac of ventura fame, we will change the world and the big businesses will follow
    4. also watch annie leonard on stream, co-director of The Story of Stuff Project http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYb-HbttqQg