

APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE REAL WORLD SITUATION

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Human rights, as defined by the United Nations is the “rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.”

Philosophers such as Aristotle first conceptualized this idea in ancient times but there is no clear distinction regarding the matter considering that slavery was still present during those times. It was not until the aftermath of the Second World War that the modern conception of human rights was developed. The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of 1948 by the United Nations was a response of the events that happened during the war, especially the events that happened in the German concentration camps that caused thousands of lives to be wasted for a stupid purpose.

The preamble of the said Universal Law clearly states its response to the tragedy that happened during World War II. The idea of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* is that it states all the basic human rights that we humans have, that all of us are equal in every way. As stated in Article 1 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

The first article clearly states the fact that all of us are born equally, no discrimination in terms of nationality and color, that we are all brothers living in the same planet. That is what the Article 2 states, that there is no distinction between our nationalities, color or beliefs. Aside from that, in the declaration, it was stated that all have equal rights to own property, to rest on a non-working day and to have leisure, and most importantly, that all of us have the equal to right for a good education.

One of the things that is worth praising in the declaration, since in this declaration, we are all viewed as equal individuals, even if you did a crime, you are viewed as innocent by the court till a resolution about your case is being made. That even if you did something bad, you must be treated as an equal human being, not a mess of society.

However, if you read each article one by one, you will clearly see that most of these rights are being violated, even the ones with authority. If you are reading the news lately, the police are using torture and it seems they are degrading the dignity of the suspect, a clear violation of Article 5.

Slavery is still seen in some poor countries, a violation of Article 4. Most people are not given a fair trial in court. Most of them are proven guilty even if the truth is, they are innocent. It is starting to feel like human rights is something that is written on paper and not something being enacted on public. But most importantly, we saw one of the worst case of human rights violation. Sure, it is not as worst as the Holocaust, but it is a modern example on what power can do to man. It's the Ampatuan Massacre.

It was horrible, terrifying you might say. The victims where treated inhumanly by the perpetrators, you might say the Ampatuan clan are animals, but unlike animals, the animals act on instinct while the Ampatuans, act on their own will. For the sake of power, they did what is considered by most, unbelievable. Accordingly, we all have the right to life. Taking it away from us is a violation of the said right; do they have the right to take it away from their victims?

It's been almost a year since it happened. According to Article 8 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, *Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.* Did we see an effective remedy on this case? Granted, that those people handling the case are competent but why is it taking too slow for us to see the results?

There are criticisms about human rights, especially the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that it is too Western, it does not covey to various world cultures, and that are some rights that must exist to provide security to a certain factor, such as trade and the rights of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) group.

Like stated in the declaration, there are groups in which will try its best to fulfill the words stated on the document. Here in the Philippines, we have the Commission of Human Rights or the CHR. Also other groups promote human rights such as party list representatives in congress and the NGOs.

If you put this simply, all of us are entitled treated equally as human beings since we are all created in the same image and likeness of our Creator, but once you treat others not properly with no apparent and proper reason, it is when you started violating their right as human beings.

In the turn of the new era, we saw the rise of movements advocating the rights of their respective groups. Even if their group is weird or their group did something bad, we must treat them equally as human beings because that is what they are, humans. They have the right to live; they all have the right to express what they feel. I will end this article by quoting Article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; *Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.*