

HUMAN RIGHTS

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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. –*Article 1 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights*

People believe that every human being has an inherent set of rights that are bestowed as part of being human. This is a gift that every human being regardless of race, religion and political belief and should be respected and must be observed at all times. The United Nations (UN) declaration of human rights as stated above shows that the world is focused on equality, dignity and rights to all human kind. The covenant also states that "basic civil and political rights of individuals and nations. Among the rights of nations are: a) the right to self-determination and b) the right to own, trade, and dispose of their property freely, and not be deprived of their means of subsistence". This shows that people all over the world has a right to choose for themselves what they like and what they wish. They are also entitled to own property and sell, buy and other transactions freely as well as access to food and water.

Furthermore, each individual has the following rights:

- a. The right to legal return when their rights have been violated, even if the violator was acting in an official capacity. This means that even criminals are entitled to legal protection as well as access to services of an attorney. Corollary to this, arrest should be done with warrant of arrest and no individual could be arrested without any warrants.
- b. The right to life. Every individual has a right to life and no one has the right to take life. However, much debate falls on the right of unborn child if the mother chooses abortion and the right of life of convicted criminals facing the death penalty.
- c. The right to liberty and freedom of movement. Translates that nobody has the right to restrict your movement or kidnap you or hold you imprisoned. This violates this right.
- d. The right to equality before the law. As the saying goes "the law applies to everyone or none at all". This shows that we are all equal under the law, we must receive equal protection. It doesn't matter if you are the mayor or congressman of a town, if you have violated the law you should be punished just like any other who violated the same law.
- e. The right to presumption of innocence till proven guilty, the right to appeal a conviction, the right to be recognized as a person before the law, and the right to privacy and protection of that privacy by law. The above rights pertain to the so-called due process that must be observed at all times when dealing with arrest, appearance in court conviction, right to an attorney, etcetera, This protects the individual from persecution without cause and detention without conviction. This prevents arrest like what had happened during martial law as many people were arrested and

taken away by the military. Some of those persons were never been found. These set of rights prevents this events to happen again.

- f. Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This basic right states the ability (If a person to have and choose a religion as well as not to be forced in to a religion. A person should not be persecuted, or treated unjustly just because of his/her religious as well as political views; thoughts and opinion, However, this also states that a person should not force anybody to his own polical and religious views.

- g. Freedom of opinion and expression. Everyone is entitled to his own opinion and also the manner of expression, but keep in mind that your opinion and expression is done in a way that you also don't step on the rights of other people. So many people in this country are persecuted and even punished just because he/she states his/her opinion. We hope that we educate the people to learn more about this very important right.

- h. Freedom of assembly and association. This right entitles to have gatherings, organize an association as well as to organize oneself in a rally, with the help of the right of freedom of expression. If we have this right, why are some authorities banning assembly and protest rally in some areas and locations? We have this right and we should use this right (if assembly to protest any wrongdoing by persons of authority.

The above given rights apply to all persons regardless of any belief and standing and by this gift, we must protect and be vigilant that this rights are not taken away from us. We also must keep in mind that other people have their rights too and we must be conscious not to step on their rights. Equality and justice, for all.