

Unheeded Shriek

Joyce Ann L. Esing, RN, RM, MN

Faculty

Department of Respiratory Therapy

School of Allied Medicine

Universidad de Zamboanga

Zamboanga City, Philippines

Man's cry for peace has long reverberated in all corners of the world. From generation to generation, since the time of antiquity, different civilizations have all yearned for peace. People have resorted to fighting for freedom against conquerors who have succumbed territories, thinking that liberty is the gateway for peace. Although wars have ended in among many nations and freedom from bondage has been attained, yet peace is still yet to be found.

Although defined by many differently, peace simply means tranquility and harmony. The very long years of this unending battle cry make people think that time has finally brought peace attainment to its cul-de-sac. Mankind began to doubt on the possibility of building peace and instead dwell on the question- *how can peace reign when selfishness and impudence fill the hearts of many?*

Elusive as it may seem, building peace is still conceivable. The great obstacle towards peace is violation of man's rights. This gives rise to a great pandemonium. Unequal allocation of basic services, deprivation of political participation, and the world's endemic problem, poverty, all stem to conflicts which can later lead to rebellion.

Peace and human rights are strongly intertwined. Peace is necessary for the protection of human rights. Societal problems lead to impingement of social rights. When conflict arises, the economic rights of the people may be withheld; similarly, when those in power resort to discrimination, extrajudicial punishments and torture, political and civil rights are then infringed.

The answer to the question is apparently simple. Respect for each other is the key for peace. When an effort is made to completely understand and accept the seemingly incomprehensible nature of humans that effort will gradually lead to the promotion and realization of PEACE.