

## **Caustic Peace**

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Over recent years, the number of political and community activists in the Philippines has continued for causes such as poverty, lack of access to political participation and decision-making, abuses of their rights or attacks on their members. Many lives were sacrificed, the bright future of our children were corrupted, and the peaceful provinces here in our country are now the battlefields of our brawling brothers. Will it still be possible to achieve fraternization and peace in this kind of situation?

Peace – building and the promotion and protection of human rights are of the heart of the aspirants of the Filipino people, yet remain among the biggest challenges for the Philippines. Peace is a cornerstone of progress-economic, social, individual and national growth, but the question is, how can we attain peace? Where does it start? Within us- peace starts from ourselves. If we have peace in our hearts, then we will be able to achieve peace in our homes, and in our community. Without peace, we cannot have stability, freedom from fear and freedom from want. Imagine a place that is lived by gangsters, hit men, robbers, kidnappers, rapists, and all other criminals. Do you think it would be nice to live in that place? Definitely, no! Even though you're also a criminal, still you won't be happy nor satisfied. Why? How will you be satisfied if all of your neighbors in that community are also like you- a criminal? You won't have a victim! A place where there is no peace is like hell- chaotic, disorganized and filled with "Lucifer's." Peace is essential for the full enjoyment, respect and protection of human rights. When there is conflict, all are affected especially our economy. On the other hand, human rights respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment is essential to maintain and build peace.

Peace and human rights are not only important for Filipinos, they're intertwined such that one is needed to achieve the other, and vice versa. We should be determined to save succeeding generations, from the scourge of war, to live together in peace, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security.