PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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What is Peace?
What are Human Rights?
Are they intertwined and essential?

Peace-building and the promotion and protection of human rights are at the heart of the aspirations of the Filipino people, yet remain among the biggest challenges for the Philippines.

Without peace, we cannot have stability, freedom from fear and freedom from want. Peace is a cornerstone of progress - economic, social, individual and national growth.

Peace and human rights are not only important for Filipinos, they are intertwined such that one is needed to achieve the other, and vice versa.

Peace is essential for the full enjoyment, respect and protection of human rights. When there is conflict, the economy is affected, making it difficult for economic rights to be fulfilled. Social tensions lead to violations of social human rights. Political and civil rights are affected when parties to conflict decide they can commit violations such as extrajudicial killings and torture in the name of their missions.

On the other hand, human rights respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment are essential to maintain and build peace.

Conflicts often have root causes that are related to human rights, even if the parties do not realize it. When there is deep and systemic discrimination that deprives one or more group of society of its right to political participation, that group will often resort to armed means.

Many rebellions are started and continued for causes such as poverty, lack of basic services, lack of access to political participation and decision-making, abuses of their rights or attacks on their members.

When an effort is made to fully respect, protect, promote and fulfill all human rights (whether economic, social, cultural, political or civil) that effort helps build towards peace or can prevent conflict.