

PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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The pilgrim they laid in a large upper chamber, whose windows opened toward the sun rising; the name of the chamber was peace. Peace must begin each one of us. Through quiet and serious reflection on its meaning, new and created ways can be found to foster understanding, friendship and cooperation among people. There should be unity and understanding that would bring peace to humanity. To have a harmonious relationship to human race. And the freedom will be in our hands in order to exercise our rights. And we are entitled to our human rights without discrimination.

Peace is often defined in the negative as freedom from war. Peace development and democracy form an interactive triangle. They are given and received in equal amount to strengthen additional forces or support. Without democracy, fair distribution of economic progress is unlikely, without sustainable development the disparities become marked and can be cause of unrest and without peace, developmental gains are quickly destroyed. Preventing and resolving conflict before it results in violence is far less costly, both in human and financial terms, than responding to it once occurred. Action to address the underlying causes of conflict include strengthening governance, improving access to human rights, economic and social development, destruction of weapons and developing a culture of peace. The first step to peace if fighting breaks out revolves around diplomatic measures to negotiate a ceasefire and agreement to which all parties agree, accepting that no gains are to be won by continuing the conflict. Implementing the peace agreement and rebuilding communication needs to happen on official and informal levels to build a foundation for future reconciliation. Rebuilding society after conflict is more than rebuilding the infrastructure. Peace building is a complex and lengthy process requiring the establishment of a climate of tolerance and respect for truth. It encompasses the wide range of political, development, humanitarian and human rights programs and mechanisms. They include the reintegration of soldiers and refugees, demining and removal of other war debris, emergency relief, the repair of our civil society peace building and see the differences of people are making around the world.

Human rights are the rights established as an essential part of something to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are equally entitled to our human rights without the said discrimination. These rights are all to bring into or having mutual relationship, dependent upon one another and impossible to divide or separate. Human rights include or involve as a necessary step or result to both rights and obligations. States assume obligations and duties under international law to respect the individuality, to protect the rights of the people and to fulfill the human rights. The obligation to respect means that the states must refrain from interfering with or to cut off the end of the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect individuals and groups against human abuses. The obligation to fulfill means that it must take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights. At the individual level, while we are entitled our human rights, we should also respect the human rights of the others.

Development will keep going in our country if when peace is maintained by every individual. And if every person have the awareness in order to promote a common growth. However, experience shows that development is at times hampered due to lack of agreement or harmony events. Cases of social unrest arise from violations of human rights and commission of crimes where in most instances, women are the helpless victims. Because some women are abused by those addicted persons where in instances women have been rape and got killed afterwards. And also women in other cases are abused by their husbands for some reasons of being jealousy, sadism and some other reasons. In this light, the gender statistics on peace and human rights is gathered to help law enforcers and peacemakers to improve their efforts by aligning priorities in favor of women protection but still abuses exist. According to, peace

describes a society or a relationships that is operating harmoniously and without violent conflict and it is commonly understood absence of hostility, or the existence of healthy or newly healed interpersonal or international relationship, safety in the matters of social or economic welfare, the acknowledgement of equality and fairness in political relationships in our country is one of the reasons why we have conflicts in here. Due to these conflicts many people got killed in every place and abused. Specially the conflict here in Mindanao wherein there are so many innocent people have been killed due to the massacre event or the killing of many persons under cruelty or atrocious circumstances without knowing what are their mortal sin to them. Here in Mindanao some of us resist the authority of one's government or show disobedience. So they bind a group and make their own government. They make their own law, rules and regulations. Because our government have no equality and no fairness to every human race. Another example is the discrimination wherein in the relationship between wealthy and less fortunate people. Where some wealthy persons underestimate the humanity of the less fortunate. For them less fortunate is only belong to be a slave. In some cases justice of the less fortunate is in low process and there is the possibility that justice will go away from them. Even if they are in the right place and even if truth was been told from them still they will lose the case specially when their opponent are those wealthy persons, the truth will reversed and will turn to lie. And those cases are existing here in country. How can we exercise our rights as an individual if there is no equality in our country? It is to be said that all human beings upon birth belong to the society. They are born to be free, equal and with human dignity and rights. But sad to know that we are in the democratic country yet have no freedom at all. And they said freedom is only for those wealthy people.

Peace is very much realistic, reachable and begins from within each one of us. It is the obligation of thinking people on this planet to weigh the implications of a future without co-existence, to consider carefully the underlying causes of today's conflicts, to encourage efforts aimed at addressing these complexities and to promote similar thought consideration by others. With problems so complex and entwined, what can be done? The solution depends in all of us, and it starts with you.

Filipinos can only enjoy the kind of life they deserve and aspire for when there is peace in the country, when human rights are respected, protected promoted and fulfilled. This takes action from everyone is every sector. The Commission on Human Rights (CHR), in partnership with the civil society group called the Advocates for a Peace Covenant, are trying to educate the electorate and the candidates, and focus voters' attention on the two overarching issues through the advocacy of a Peace and Human Rights Covenant for political aspirants. Voters are urged to think carefully about the candidates, and choose candidates not only on popularity but based on the commitment and vision of the candidates for building peace, ending armed conflict and rebellion while addressing the root causes of such conflict, and for promoting, protecting and fulfilling human rights. Candidates are enjoined to seriously build into their platforms and programs of action, concrete plans to bring peace throughout the Philippines and to ensure that every Filipino is secure in his/her human rights.

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 is 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. Government officials and public servants are obligated by law to respect human rights and to promote and fulfill them as they go about their work. With human rights comes responsibility. All of us have the responsibility to respect the human rights of everyone else. We also have the responsibility to build a society where we all can enjoy our human rights.