

PEACE and HUMAN RIGHTS

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From time to time, peace has become the common subject matter talked by numbers of people in the entire global civilization. It keeps on knocking on the minds of every citizen on the different countries all over the world. People believed that development which is sought by every members of the State can be obtained when peace and harmony is maintained. They perceived that chaos and conflicts in the society could topple down the economy and serve as a great barrier for sustainable development dreamed by every citizens and leaders of the State. Why they say so, because ultimately and relatively on their experiences and observations, development is always hampered and impeded due to discordant events. Cases of social unrests, civil discords and violence in mass media arise from violations of human rights and commission of crimes.

Peace is a denunciation of all forms of violence. It leads the society away from any cruelty, prejudice and inhumanity towards an inhabitant that genuinely provides a safer, harmonic place to dwell in. Peace is the promotion of total welfare of the individual members of the society without any discrimination as to gender, religion, language, occupation or status. It is even a due recognition of one's culture with due respect and obeisance to whatever their beliefs, customary procedures and traditions. It is a genuine exercise of freedom and liberalism and a fruit out of respect of human rights and to a person's dignity. It coincides to the manifestations of solidarity. It is built to foster justice and even a more constructive vision to share responsibilities held for the common good of the present and future generation.

Peace becomes a definite scarce resource in today' setting. Countries are in war, millions of people had suffered and others were eventually killed by highly-technological armaments. People have become very violent in solving their problems yet the solutions they had employed add up only to the perplexing matter they encounter and unfortunately, it even make it more complicated than ever. Others resort to solutions like killings, arsons, grave threats, rallies, robbery, kidnapping and even hostage taking. Daily news in televisions, stereos, tabloids and other news sources has undeniably concur the reality that peace is truly diminishing!

Moreover, our present time is obviously noted by a continued presence of conflicts at almost every level of human endeavor. Conflicts are evident everywhere. They intensify hatred, accumulate and make restoration of peace more difficult. They took place among family members, among different units in the community and among States to expand, thus, threaten the survival of the entire human race – from poor, young, innocent minds of children up to the oldest human species. Several conflicts had exist recently .The looming crisis between Israel and the terrorist group Hezbollah which has devastated almost every countries in the Middle East and even influenced the primary supplier of petroleum products which is the World Market to increase fuel price leaving other countries engaged in importation of these products problematic, especially traders. Our country, Philippines has not get away nor rid from these atrocious realities. There has been violence all over our country brought by intensified and continued government assaults against the rebel groups but Mindanao is the most affected island in the country's history. Other members of the Armed Forces had taken a false move to express their stand of contradictions against the government anomalies, to mention one is the "Peninsula Siege" whom Gen.

Antonio Trillanes led the blockade. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), New People's Army (NPA) and Abu Sayyaf also have killed so many innocent civilians and lastly, the August 23 hostage crisis that had stopped lives of so many Hongkong tourists and created a conflict Hongkong-Philippine relations.

These conflicts were sparked by an insufficient protection of human rights and the traumas out of these discords are caused by extreme human right violations. The roots of this physical violence are human rights abuses. Conflict is the absence of human rights protection that creates the conditions for oppression, torture, murders and homicide. Unfortunately, these violations on human rights lead to some other new violations. Furthermore, the promotion and protection of human rights is believed to be the very best foundation of a dreamed lasting peace in the world today. This calls for the state to protect its citizens both in war and in peace time in accordance with the rule of law. This solution is a development based on justice. Justice involves the recognition of rights, linked to a human person himself. These rights are ascribed "naturally" which means that their context is based on race, creed, ethnicity and gender. Justice aims at fairness – to give to each one his due. Rights are due to a person however these rights have an intrinsic relation to the common good, thus to be exercised for the beneficence of the masses. Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are considered entitled: the right to life, liberty, freedom of thought and expression, and equal treatment before the law, among others. These specific rights can be divided into six or more families: security rights that protect people against crimes such as murder, massacre, torture, and rape; due process rights that protect against abuses of the legal system such as imprisonment without trial, secret trials, and excessive punishments; liberty rights that protect freedoms in areas such as belief, expression, association, assembly, and movement; political rights that protect the liberty to participate in politics through actions such as communicating, assembling, protesting, voting, and serving in public office; equality rights that guarantee equal citizenship, equality before the law, and nondiscrimination; and social (or "welfare") rights that require provision of education to all children and protections against severe poverty and starvation-The right to live in the pursuit of peace is included in these human rights. These rights if trespassed by anybody create conflicts. Having human rights norms in place imposes certain requirements on governments and legitimizes the complaints of individuals in those cases where fundamental rights and freedoms are not respected.

In respect, there is an integral relation between human rights and issues of peace. There are so many organizations that look towards the promotion of peace. We have to be grateful to these organizations for they are trying to aid in employing proper solutions to resolve conflicts. The United Nations organization is one. The organization increasingly combined their efforts to prevent or end conflicts by reducing human rights abuses. They had held a strong emphasis on ensuring protection of minorities, strengthening democratic institutions, realizing the right to development and securing universal respect for human rights.

A change in perception leads to a change in attitude, which leads to a change in behavior, which leads to a change in the world.

There are many ways to promote peace in the world but perhaps the best way is to promote it within ourselves. Peace is a gradual and wonderful event that occurs because compassionate people are inspired to help others discover the joy of peace! Helping others also has the direct effect of increasing

our personal peace and well-being, but this is merely one of the many bonuses that come from sharing our kindness with our fellow human beings.

Peace, like reading, writing, mathematics, drawing, emotional intelligence and enlightenment ("understanding/comprehension/compassion/meditation/intuition"), are learned skills that improve our knowledge, maturity, health, happiness and longevity. Peace is probably the most important lesson we should learn during our lives and the sooner the better. The advent of the World Wide Web may just provide the boost in knowledge & peace humankind has been waiting for. Improved communication may be the difference between extinction and survival. Through knowledge, Peace will evolve. Knowledge is power. Knowledge combined with enlightenment leads to wisdom. Wisdom is Peace!

Millions of solutions might be employed yet without anybody to start the race, prize becomes useless! In employing solutions to every endeavor, it becomes always a requisite to begin and move to take some actions. Let's begin within ourselves! Let's begin to pursue peace and run the race with great perseverance for the procurement of the prize-a prize one could impart on the present times and on the time to come. Peace is the prize! Grab it!