

PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
Vinsky M. Libre
Accountancy Department
Universidad de Zamboanga-Ipil
Zamboanga Sibugay Province, Philippines

Peace and human rights is a right of every human to have peace and equality to this world.

For me, if you have peace in your own self then you may able to respect the human rights and if you want to have peace you must respect the human rights of every people living in this world. The peace and human rights are also have same meaning in terms of way delivering into this world.

Development is sustained when peace is maintained. However, experience shows that development is at times hampered due to discordant events. Cases of social unrest arise from violations of human rights and commission of crimes where in most instances, women are the helpless victims. In this light, gender statistics on peace and human rights is gathered to help law enforcers and peacekeepers improve their efforts by aligning priorities in favor of women protection and encouraging women participation.

The basis of most modern legal interpretations of human rights can be traced back to relatively recent European history. The Twelve Articles (1525) are considered to be the first record of human rights in Europe. Two major revolutions occurred during the 18th century, in the United States (1776) and in France (1789), leading to the adoption of the United States Declaration of Independence and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen respectively, both of which established certain legal rights.

Human rights has been a subject of concern and controversy. Although the government generally respected human rights, some security forces elements particularly the Philippine National Police practiced extrajudicial killings, vigilantism, disappearances, torture, and arbitrary arrest and detention in their battle against criminals and terrorists. Prison conditions were harsh, and the slow judicial process as well as corrupt police, judges, and prosecutors impaired due process and the rule of law. Besides criminals and terrorists, human rights activists, atheists and agnostics left-wing political activists, and Muslims were sometimes the victims of improper police conduct. Violence against women and abuse of children remained serious problems, and some children were pressed into slave labor and prostitution.

On Wednesday December 7, 2006 International Labor Rights Fund's Brian Campbell tried to enter the Philippines to continue investigations of recent human rights violations and murders in the Philippines. Mr. Campbell had previously visited the Philippines in early 2006 to investigate various deaths of trade unionists including Diosdado Fortuna. On Dec 7, Mr. Campbell was informed he was on a blacklist by the Filipino immigration authorities and was barred from entering the country. Mr. Campbell then was immediately forced to leave the country.

Since 2001 when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo began her term in office over 800 people have been victims of extra judicial killings. In 2007 Philip Alston, the United Nations Special Report on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary executions, spent 10 days in the Philippines investigating these killings. He spoke to witnesses and victims, as well as senior members of the military and the government, finding that witnesses have been systematically intimidated and harassed. He says the military is implicated directly or indirectly in a significant number of deaths. Victims over the past six years have included trade unionists, farmers' rights activists, people from indigenous communities, lawyers, journalists, human rights campaigners and people of religion. The European Commission (EC) sent a six-man team of experts from the European Union (EU) to the Philippines on a 1 D-day mission to evaluate needs and identify technical assistance that the EU might provide to help its government prosecute those behind the killings.

That's what peace and human rights means to me.