

The Morality of Human Rights

By: LATIP, SALWA IGNACIO

School of Allied Medicine
Universidad de Zamboanga
Zamboanga City, Philippines

What are human rights? What is morality? Human rights are rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood while morality is a sense of behavioral conduct that differentiates intentions, decisions, and actions between those that are good and bad.

Though we are protected by human rights law this does not mean that we can do everything and anything we want. We cannot just hurt or kill anybody nor steal from others and say that it is all right because we have human rights. Human rights come along with morality. It is not right, if it is immoral nor it is moral if it is not right.

Nowadays, human rights are not being practiced appropriately specially by rich and powerful people. They intentionally violate the rights of their underlings. They believe that no one has the right to question their doings because they are rich and they are powerful. That is why as human being, we have to know our human rights, its do's and don'ts, to be able to practice them appropriately and to know our rights may we be rich and powerful or penniless and powerless.

The ideal of free human beings enjoying civil and political freedom and freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his civil and political rights, as well as his social, economic and cultural rights.