

Human Rights

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Every human has a right. No matter our race and color is, these rights are to be respected, observed and practices. As a human, as a Filipino citizen, we know that we have these rights. But are we also aware that we have rights that are to be given to us but unfortunately it is violated and deprived from us?

I grew up encountering, not just one, not just 2, but countless cases of human rights violation. Media is one of the most influential factor in today society. I remember myself reacting from is on of the flash report in a channel station. It is all about this middle-aged guy who physically and sexually abused a 16 year old girl and her younger sister, who is only 10 years old. This is one concrete violation of human rights. Our right to be treated with respect, honor and dignity. Violence isn't limited to physical harm only, it also includes sexual, psychological and economic abuse. In any ways, we have the rights to protect ourselves against those who harm us. We have the right to file a case to the offender and may also ask for issuance of a protection order from the barangay or regional trial court to curb the violence and prevent further from harm. This allow you to have control over your life. But what happens when the offender has a great power to society? Can this power affect the decision of the court? For me. Yes. Why? because the court, sometimes favors to rich and powerful people, they favors the one who has a great power. Who says we had fair justice? If you say yes, think again. Are these prisoners really deserve their long years of punishment inside the jail? We can't be sure of a fair justice just as what other politicians say. Yes, we maybe given the right to put our case into proper judgments, to see as much more clearer picture of both sides, but results may vary cases injustices and improper judgment once became and still at present a dirt in our society that can't be easily swept away.

Once a year we have our election for the national and local official. In my year of existence, never had I witnessed a peaceful and clear election day. Vote buying illegal voters and the addition of votes is always present. It is always there and the manner of voting can't cure those illnesses of Election Day. As a citizen, we have the right to vote. "Vote wisely" as what most of the politician said, but how can these wise votes can be counted, if the politicians men manipulates the votes? Many citizens were being deprived to vote. Many lives of volunteer teachers who served the people during Election Day lisp. In Jolo, Sulu where in people doesn't mind killing other person are in great danger and if unfortunes comes. 1 or 2 dies because of protecting the ballots. There are some cases that we can say that people have not given enough right for a social security and protection.

We have the right to have freedom in conveying our thoughts, sharing our ideas, to give our own opinions and to make our own decisions. We are not be dictated and the final decision should come from us. When it comes in patching our own life. We can

accept advices, suggestions and comments but we should not be forced to choose one thing that is against our will. We have the right to own a property. It doesn't mean that we are poor we can't own a property. Once we have all the legal evidences at all means, our right to own a property should be given to us. We have the right to socialize to other people and to be a part of a group. It is our right to have friend and differences in color, nationality, dialect, the physical and our mental skills can't deprive this right to us.

Yesterday, on my way home I saw more than 10 little children they are being observed strictly by their boss. These young boys carry on their back heavy sacks of rice. By that time, the jeepney that I was riding need to stop because of a flat tire and it took time before they able to change it. I was able to witness a good example of child labor. The thin body and the young forces of the boys can tell us that their ages are ranging only from 10 to 16 years old. These boys should be enjoying the right to play and their right to be not involved and use in a cheap labor and as a soldiers. Studies point to poverty as it cause. The state of the economy, socio- cultural conditions and the state policies as influenced by global situations, peer influence, family expectations are some factors that drive the children to work. These children work to earn for themselves or for others. Some are paid with a right price while other were paid on much lower price. In line with this, even big companies abuse the right of other workers by letting them work too much and overtime but are not paying or giving the right salary for their performance on the job.

Other human rights includes our right to education, our right to travel, our right to enjoy, our right to love, care, understand by other people and our right for our nationality, our right to be a member of our society / community.

So maybe, at a certain point we can say, we know our rights. We know it and we often talk about it. But it is in rare situations that we fight for our right. We should always put in our minds that we have to respect others rights if we wants others to respect also our rights.