

LET PEACE BE THE AMMUNITION

Gellie Jean V. Sutacio
Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology
School of Allied Medicine
Universidad de Zamboanga
Zamboanga City, Philippines

A twelve-year old boy stands in the middle of a battlefield, holding a long gun instead of a pen loaded with ammunition instead of knowledge. His eyes radiant with deep fear, he falls on his knees and looks up to the sky. He loses grip of the deadly weapon and questions himself, “why should I let violence be the answer to everything?”

Peace has always been a complex and crucial issue here in the Philippines, Filipinos killing their fellow countrymen, making such simple cultural differences complicated. In Maguindanao, little boys are trained to kill soldiers. They are taught to propagate anger and vengeance in their hearts making it hard as a stone. Ever since they were brought to this world, they were taught to fight for their peoples intentions things that were never reasonable from the start.

Cultural diversity symbolizes a rich culture. We should uphold it and not destroy it. True those differences generate conflicts, but we shouldn't make it worse. Peace might be a complex and multidimensional process, hard to achieve in its sense but is still achievable. If we just settle disputes in a diplomatic way and not by using force, if we just know how to forgive and forget, avoid prejudices and intolerance, then we will be building a society ruled by goodness and genuine peace.

If we can be lively in a dangerous battlefield, the more we would be in trying to peacefully build camaraderie. Let's load our hearths with peace and love and target everyone, piercing through the depths of their hearts. True happiness can only be gotten from genuine peace. And if we are at peace, then so is Mother Earth.