

The Ramento Project for Rights Defenders (RPRD) is a Church-based human rights program operated by the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) for the cause of human rights especially for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs).

Its human rights commitments are based on Christian principles and on universal and national human rights instruments. In the application of international instruments, RPRD observes the standards and processes of Rights-Based Approach (RBA).

The formation of RPRD started in 2008 as a joint initiative of Iglesia Filipina Independiente's Office of the Obispo Maximo and the South-Central Luzon Bishops' Conference (SCLBC).

Over the years, the Church's human rights work and solidarity with the struggling people resulted to the martyrdom of a number of its clergymen. They were killed by fascist elements or died while in the course of serving the people as human rights defenders.

On this regard, 3 names easily come to mind, that of Reverend Fathers Narciso Pico and William Tadena, and former Obispo Maximo, Archbishop Alberto Ramento.

RPRD is pursuing these martyrs' commitment to champion human rights by addressing the unresolved and multiple cases of human rights violations of extra-judicial killings, abductions, grave threats, illegal arrests, and legal persecutions.

Photo from Kapayapaan Campaign for Just and Lasting Peace

RAMENTO PROJECT FOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS TO UPHOLD SANCTITY AND DIGNITY OF LIFE



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OUR PROGRAMS

Sanctuary, Medical, Emergency, Legal and Livelihood Services (SMELLS)

The Church, declaring her building and other edifices as sanctuaries and zones of peace, provides temporary shelter and support to human rights defenders (HRDs) who are in danger and other distressed situation to help build and maintain an enabling environment for their human rights work. These services are available to those who work or do, whether part-time or fulltime, political or non-political, paid or voluntary, for the cause of human rights, who in the course of their work, are faced with threats to their lives and security, harassments and persecution.

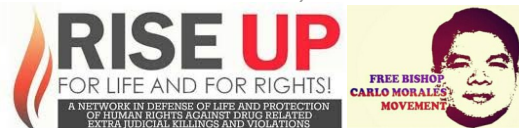
Training and Education for Human Rights Action (TEHRA)

To effectively understand and respond to the needs of HRDs-in-danger, new faith-based human rights defenders must also grow in number and capacity. Thus, education and training on human rights work, paralegal knowledge, peace advocacy and other campaigns and organizational development are offered to priests and lay of the Church and other partner faith-based organizations.

Advocacy and Networking

To amplify the situation of HRDs and the communities they belong to and work with, RPRD and its faith-based partner organizations and HRDs engage themselves with advocacies and campaigns. Recent priority engagements include advocacy and campaigns on the forced evacuation of national minorities and indigenous communities among the Lumad people, the resumption of the peace negotiations, extrajudicial killings and impunity around the government's war on drugs, and the release of IFI Bishop Carlo Morales from illegal detention and other political prisoners. Campaigns and advocacy activities are carried out in collaboration with other churches and people's and human rights organizations.

Advocacy Partners:



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