

HUWAG KANG PAPTAY:

**NO TO EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS
NO TO DEATH PENALTY
NO TO MINING**

Believing that all life is sacred because it is God's own gift to each one of us; believing that we are not God, and that Earth was created for us by God to sustain us, the **Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines National Capital Region (CEAP NCR)**, with one hundred seventy-one (171) member schools, colleges and universities, **STRONGLY CONDEMNS:**

- **EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS IN THE COUNTRY**

“The life of every person comes from God. It is He who gives it, and it is He alone who can take it back. Not even the government has the right to kill life because government is only God's steward and not the owner of life.” *(CBCP, 30 January 2017)*

In this light, the CEAP-NCR also condemns **narco-politics and the illegal drug business** which breed corruption, crime, and death especially among our desperate poor, the unemployed and our youth. The integrity of the government and its institutions is put to question when police misfits and political personalities are seen to collude and cooperate with the illegal drug trade.

- **THE PLANNED RE-IMPOSITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY UNDER THE GUISE OF ADDRESSING HEINOUS DRUG PROBLEMS**

“Fully convinced that though the crime be heinous, no person is ever beyond redemption, we therefore have no right to give up on any person.

“When we condemn violence, we cannot ourselves be its perpetrators. When we decry murder, we cannot ourselves participate in murder—no matter that it may be accompanied by the trappings of the judicial and legal processes.” *(CBCP, 30 January 2017)*

- **THE MINING THAT THREATENS PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY THROUGH THE WANTON DUMPING OF WASTES AND TAILINGS IN THE RIVERS AND SEAS.**

CEAP-NCR is firmly convinced that "the right to life of the people is inseparable from their right to sustainable sources of food and livelihood. Allowing the interests of mining corporations to prevail over the people's right to these sources amount to a violation of their right to life." *(CBCP, 29 January 2006)*

In this season of Lent, we ask the Blessed Mother to intercede for us and accompany us through these dark times of violence and impunity, where the poor among us bear most of the suffering.

President Ramon Magsaysay once said, "Those who have less in life should have more in law." The CEAP-NCR urges the present administration to address the root causes of the drug problem by the implementation of proactive programs which address poverty, create more jobs, strengthen the family, and guide the youth who are most affected during these difficult times, to wholesome recreation.

Lastly, we appeal to all Filipinos to stand with courage for social justice and equality which are founded upon absolute respect for human life and dignity.