



P N P News Release

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PNP HEAD HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION WEEK

The Office of the Philippine National Police is spearheading the weeklong December 3-10, 2002 National Human Rights Week celebration. This will highlight the PNP's avowed objective of being a human rights protector and initiating and getting involved in the efforts of advancing the cause of human rights in the country.

Oftentimes, the police cannot help but be cited for alleged human right violations because of the nature of its police function. When the PNP engages in actual and direct confrontation with criminal elements and insurgents, the "use of force" is imminent. Anywhere applied, the use of force on any person may be perceived as a violation of human rights. Nonetheless, the PNP strictly observes the Police Operational Procedures or "rules of engagement," which defines how sufficient force should be applied on any given situation where the police is called to exercise his or her function. Respect for human rights is a matter of policy in the PNP. In furtherance of this policy, Human Rights modules have been incorporated in all training programs of the PNP, particularly during basic recruit training and cadetship.

Activities during the week-long celebration include a Flag-Raising Ceremony with the Regional Director of the Commission on Human Rights as distinguished guest, forums and police refreshers on Human Rights as distinguished guest, forums and poolice refreshers on Human Rights concerns, participation in human rights-related public affairs programs on television and radio and spray-painting of police vehicles with the logo "Philippine National Police Human Rights Protector."