

## House Bill 4321

### Declaring a Peaceful and Nonkilling Philippines as a National Goal and Establishing “The Philippine Index of Killing/Nonkilling” for the Purpose

Submitted to the House of Representatives, Congress of the Philippines,  
By Representative Rene L. Relampagos,  
Third District of Bohol

#### Explanatory Note

#### **Measuring, Monitoring, and Mapping Killings Nationwide**

To build “a peaceful and nonkilling Philippines” we need to know much more about the incidence and specific causes of the violence and killings that happen. From year to year we really don’t know the true incidence of different kinds of violence and killings in various parts of the country. Nor do we know much about the causes and conditions behind the killings.

From the research conducted by the Movement for a Nonkilling Philippines, we learn that the recording, monitoring, and mapping of the killing of human beings in the Philippines leave much to be desired. We also seek more reliable knowledge and information about the probable causes and underlying conditions of those killings in order to reduce their occurrence.

On this concern we can learn from the timely report by Dr. Jose V. Abueva, entitled *Let’s Build a Nonkilling Philippines. Tungo sa Kalinaw at Walang Pagpatay. And Help Build a Killing-Free World* (September 2011). The Report is published for the Movement for a Nonkilling Philippines by the Institute for a Nonkilling Philippines, Kalayaan College (75 pages). The research was supported by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and its printing by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).

**It is therefore proposed that the Philippine Government establish a peaceful and nonkilling Philippines as a national goal and set up The Philippine Index of Killing/Nonkilling for the purpose. The Index will measure, monitor, and map nationwide the killing of human beings around the country.**

As we are able to determine the cause of the killings, we shall classify them into various forms: murder, homicide, abortion, infanticide, suicide, assassination, contract killing, death penalty, domestic killings, ethnic killings, and other forms of killing.

“The Philippine Index of Killing/Nonkilling” will indicate the incidence or frequency of killings by province, city, municipality, and barangay, and for the Philippines as a whole, so we will know the record of killing and nonkilling nationwide.

**We shall try to identify the kinds of persons who kill and those who are killed. We can then study the specific ways in which we can reduce killing and promote nonkilling communities and build “a nonkilling Philippines.”**

**We should be able to recognize and reward the most peaceful and nonkilling communities as models or exemplars for others to emulate.**

**Nonkilling communities would become more possible and attainable when we know of their existence in particular areas in the Philippines and deliberately aim to promote their development elsewhere in the country.**

**We can help other communities to enhance their potential and capabilities for nonkilling peacefulness. We can help them to discourage and prevent killing for whatever purpose, and remove conditions that lead to killing.**

### **House Bill 4321**

## **Declaring a Peaceful and Nonkilling Philippines as a National Goal and Undertaking “The Philippine Index of Killing/Nonkilling” for the Purpose**

### **Rationale and Justification**

Whereas: it is national policy established in the Constitution of the Philippines for the State to promote peace, truth, love, human rights including the right to life, to maintain the rule of law, and to build a just and humane society for the common good;

Whereas: the killing of human beings causes incalculable human loss and suffering, and are thus prohibited by law and our religions, and are to be punished;

Whereas: a life-sustaining, nonviolent, and killing-free Filipino society is a desirable vision and a measurable goal to strive for and achieve for the common good;

Whereas: Principle 13 of the Charter for a World Without Violence adopted by the Nobel Peace Laureates in 2007 calls for “the right of everyone not to be killed and the responsibility not to kill others”;

Whereas: contrary to what may be conventional wisdom, the killing of human beings is not inherent in human nature, and in fact most peoples, including Filipinos, never kill a human being in their whole lifetime; otherwise, the human population would not be continually increasing as it has;

Whereas: the killing of human beings, likened to a disease by the World Health Organization, can be prevented, mitigated, reduced, or even stopped under certain conditions; or can be spread and worsened under other conditions, such as when killers are often not apprehended, tried, and punished, or when they enjoy virtual impunity for their crime;

Whereas: the Philippines is now one of an increasing number of countries around the world whose writers, artists, journalists, scholars, scientists, religious, and other citizens and leaders are now engaged in building nonkilling societies and thereby also a nonkilling world <[www.nonkilling.org](http://www.nonkilling.org)>

Whereas: the recording, monitoring, and mapping of the killing of human beings in the Philippines, for various reasons or causes, leave much to be desired: so that Filipinos do not know the true incidence of different kinds of violence and killings in various parts of the country and the entire country from year to year;

Whereas: serious efforts to prevent, discourage and reduce violence and various kinds of killings, and to punish their perpetrators are hampered and obstructed by lack of reliable information and knowledge about their incidence and their probable causes and attendant conditions;

**WHEREFORE: House Bill 4321 is hereby proposed Declaring a Peaceful and Nonkilling Philippines as a National Goal, and Undertaking the Philippine Index of Killing/Nonkilling for the Purpose.**

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**House Bill 4321. Declaring a Peaceful and Nonkilling Philippines as a National Goal, and Undertaking the Philippine Index of Killing/Nonkilling for the Purpose.**

**Section 1. Policy.** It shall be the policy of the Republic of the Philippines:

- (1) To aim for a peaceful, life-sustaining, and nonkilling Philippines as a national goal to be promoted by the whole nation, led by National Government, and with the active cooperation and support of all local governments and the citizens;
- (2) To set up, maintain and publish the Philippine Index of Killing and Nonkilling as a continuing system of recording, monitoring, and mapping of the incidence of violence and killings, as well as of nonviolence and nonkilling, in various parts of the country and the entire archipelago;
- (4) To provide suitable incentives and rewards for those municipalities, cities, provinces and regions that excel in developing peaceful and nonkilling communities; and to assist and encourage those communities that experience more violence and killings, in order to alleviate and improve their condition; and
- (5) To encourage and support collaboration among peace-loving leaders and citizens and local and national organizations that aim to build killing-free communities all over the Philippines and thereby contribute to the global movement to build a peaceful and killing-free world.

**Section 2. The Philippine Index of Killing/Nonkilling Organization (PI-K/NK-Org).** To promote the national goal of a peaceful and nonkilling Philippines, the Department Interior and Local Government shall organize an interdepartmental agency with the active participation of all local government units and civil society for the specific purpose of undertaking the Philippine Index of Killing/Nonkilling) for its intended purpose and objectives.

**Section 3. Leadership and Cooperation.** The Organization shall be headed by a full-time Under-Secretary who shall be responsible to the Secretary of Interior and Local Government. The Under-Secretary shall work in cooperation with its interagency, local government, and civil society members to achieve their common purpose.

**Section 4. Reporting.** The Philippine Index of Killing/Nonkilling Organization shall render periodic reports on the progress and outcome of its work to the public and undertake such activities as will promote and realize its intended mission of building a peaceful and nonkilling Philippines.

**Section 5. Funding.** The Philippine Index of Killing/Nonkilling Organization shall be supported by Government funding and private contributions, as well as support from international sources concerned with peace and killing-free societies.

**Section 6. Accountability.** The President, and/or on his/her behalf, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, shall submit annual and other reports to Congress and to the nation on the progress and outcomes of the implementation of the policy declared in this Statute. They shall recommend such measures as may be necessary in pursuance of the national goal of a peaceful and nonkilling Philippines. They shall also report on the nation's contribution to international efforts to promote universal peace and justice and the emerging goal of a nonkilling world.