

# History of the Declaration of Human Rights in the Context of International Administration

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This a speech delivered by the Author before the UNESCO/Philippines sponsored symposium on Teachings on Human Rights at the P. Gomez Elementary School on October 20, 1960. Essentially, it lays down the significant developments in the history of the declaration of human rights, citing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) in 1948 as the fundamental international document on the matter. Ramos noted that the idea of protection and of the furtherance of human rights did not commence only with the UN Charter, instead, it can be traced back to the early eighteenth century when treaties were executed at the Congress of Vienna because of the need to protect religious groups and national minorities. At the end of the nineteenth century, a number of treaty provisions were also drawn up to ensure religious freedom for Christians and Jews alike within and without the Ottoman Empire. However, it is clarified that post-World War I, efforts to include international pledges of religious and racial interference in the Covenant of the League of Nations were met in vain. The role played by international organizations, such as the International Labor Organization, cannot also be downplayed – effective as they were in ameliorating and improving conditions of life or work. Similarly cited for its positive impact is the development of a media of information in underdeveloped countries. By and large, the history of the declaration of human rights only shows that the struggle for human rights has not been free of difficulties. Any attempt at an international approach to the issue is hindered by differences in political realities and the respective self-interests of nations.