

## **Do we hang them or do we shoot them?**

**By Angelica Peralta**

Do we hang them or do we shoot them? This question lies within the controversy on whether or not the Philippines should reinstate death penalty which was recently abolished during Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's term as President last 2006, lowering the maximum punishment to life imprisonment.

For the past years, several bills were already created and filed to the lower house and Senate to bring back death penalty with the reason that several lawmakers believe this would eliminate or reduce the crime rate in the Philippines. However, the idea still isn't clear to most Filipinos. You ask, would death penalty eliminate crime? The idea isn't impossible. Would death penalty eliminate crime in the Philippines? We cannot know for sure.

Heinous is often associated with the true state of the crimes done in the Philippines. Research provides that most criminal cases within the country root from sociological and behavioral conditions. Poverty and Urbanization for some reason, are the highest possibilities why crimes are rapidly increasing in the Philippines, a third world country. Yes, a third world country, I say. However, are the people to be blamed?

For some reason, the Filipinos are known to be hospitable to visitors and caring to their loved ones. Filipinos love sharing what they can give even if they have nothing left for themselves. We all agree, don't we? When all things come to its worst, they'd do anything for people whom they care about, even if it means they kill someone on the process. Dramatic and touching they say. Chaotic, I say.

Death and justice will always come hand in hand. When the grim reaper comes whispering telling you to kill the person you met inside the mall, only because he spilled hot tea on your beloved daughter, and then shot him even with the knowledge of death penalty, and there you think, justice has been served. Chaotic because when it's your turn to face death, you try to defend yourself saying it was an act of love rather than an

act of crime. Now they ask, do we hang him or shoot him? Blood sheds. Out of anger and emotional burden the daughter shoots the judge who gave him the death sentence, now has justice been served? Dramatic and touching they say. Chaotic, I say. Indeed, laws are created to punish crimes and acts but it cannot be eliminated by a single law. Seeking justice in the Philippines has never been easy. They want death penalty on the table, when it even takes several months to solve a single case of theft. Now, reviving death penalty is left as a question on whether it can be one factor eliminate crime in the country or just a variable to another cycle on violence. It shouldn't be this frustrating and chaotic to seek justice. Now ask, do we shoot them or hang them? Neither.