



UST LAW REVIEW
VOLUME 64

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EDITORIAL

We hear and read about them. Now, we stand as witnesses.

Suddenly, we became witnesses of what we thought to be abstract concepts in our Constitution. The evils that our Constitution sought to protect us from ceased to be imaginary, especially to the marginalized sectors of our society.

The adversities that confront us today should lead us to an epiphany; we are not mere spectators in battles against injustices. Instead, we are the warriors who fight to preserve our rights, freedom and democracy. Tolerance is condonation. We should be active participants in the pursuit of better governance and leadership intended for the welfare of every human being. Our laws should never be weaponized to sow terror, repress our freedom and facilitate abuse. Instead, laws should afford protection and serve as the weapon of the defenseless.

While the COVID-19 pandemic remains to be undefeated, it is not the citizens who should be held at gunpoint. People all over the world struggle to survive let alone recover from this public health crisis. The aggression should not be directed against them. This pandemic clamors for the abandonment of partisan politics and demands dominance of genuine leadership.

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“Measures and actuations, however well intentioned, if pursued without regard to constitutional and legal restraints, will usher in authoritarianism.”

The Constitution as Stabilizer in our Nation Building

Associate Justice Jesus Barrera
Former Justice Secretary,
member of the Philippine Constitutional Convention