

**Senator Leila M. de Lima's Message to the
Newsletter
Of the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and
Democracy**

I wish to extend my utmost gratitude to the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy ("Geneva Summit") for its continuing interest in my case and the general human rights situation in the Philippines. The unwavering support from such prestigious global organizations, such as the Geneva Summit, has contributed immensely in propping up my personal resolve and the collective spirit of the human rights community and the democratic opposition in our country.

By providing safe and effective spaces to articulate pressing human rights issues across the globe, the Geneva Summit has been instrumental in pushing the causes of human dignity and equality to be front and center in the agenda of not just the policy makers and opinion shapers in the human rights capital of the world, but also of those who opt to toil in "*small places, close to home*", to borrow the words of the venerable Eleanor Roosevelt.

I thus consider myself fortunate being accorded by the Geneva Summit two (2) golden opportunities to talk about my case and the human rights climate in my country: first, when my situation as a prisoner of conscience was highlighted during the 11th Summit in

March 2019; and, second, when my advocacies and current human rights issues in the Philippines are featured in the Summit's upcoming newsletter. In both occasions, my brother Vicente de Lima II represented me.

Indeed, the world is watching. You in the Geneva Summit -- by the spotlight that you have thrown to my case and the human rights calamity in the Philippines -- has proven this time and again. You have shown that the dignity and worth of every person, and the yearning for freedom, are the glues that bind all of us in our common humanity.

Thank you for your solidarity in my fight and in the struggle of the Filipinos for human rights and democracy.