



**President Rodrigo Duterte**

Office of the President  
Republic of the Philippines  
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Ravensburg/Gräfelfing, May 29<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Call to investigation to bring justice to the murdered Mr. Jory Porquia  
Call to drop the charges against forty-two peaceful human rights activists\***

Honorary Mr. President Duterte,

we are writing to you regarding the murder of Mr. Jory Porquia which happened 30th April 2020. Both of us, the Fair Trade importer WeltPartner eG and the organic standard association Naturland e.V. do have long-term successful business relationships with different companies in the Philippines. One of these companies we are working with in the sense of Fair Trade is the Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC) in Ilo-Ilo/Panay. We are in close contact with them and are visiting them regularly.

Fair Trade companies like PFTC do their utmost to create more income and to support possibilities to live a better life for thousands of Filipinas and Filipinos. As we are quite happy about these efforts we present our Philippine Fair Trade partners here to the German public as best practice examples of how the people in the rural areas can benefit in protecting their environment and at the same time to create better sustainable income – both is possible by going the way of organic farming combined with receiving fair prices for the agricultural produce. All these is implemented and supported by WeltPartner and Naturland in cooperation with partners like PFTC. We offer Philippine organic products to the German customers and therefore we are promoting human rights, social and economic justice as way of a sustainable Fair Trade. Germans appreciate this combination of high-quality fair trade and organic products originating from the hands of Philippine small-scale farmers. The products and the people behind the products reflect a positive, culturally rich and humane country which attracts therefore the interest of many people to know more about the Philippines and its people, tourist attractions etc.

Why do we explain all this? It is important for us to show our efforts to present the Philippines in the best light to the German public. However, we are very deeply concerned about the murder – better named as an assassination – of our friend and environmental and human rights activist Mr. Jory

Porquia which happened in your country some weeks ago. These and other human rights violation which happened the last years show your country in a real bad light regarding not protecting the human rights!

It is our obligation to inform the German public and with that our customers in details about this horrible murder. They assume that up to now there were no real efforts taken to bring justice to Mr. Jory Porquia and to bring the killers to court.

Therefore, we appeal to you to ensure complete and correct investigation and prosecution of the offenders and their backers. Only this will help to gain back confidence of German public in your judicial system!

The death of Mr. Jory Porquia is not a single murder. He is added to a long list of victims of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines during the last years. Being a staff member of Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC) Mr. Porquia has been active in the feeding activities of PFTC among hungry children during the lock down period. As one of the frontliners, he experienced together with other frontliners being harassed by the uniformed government agents, discouraging the people to receive the food packs being distributed.

Directly connected with the murder of Mr. Porquia we also call for the charges to be dropped against 42 human rights activists\* arrested on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 by the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Iloilo City and released on bail on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

These protesters were exercising their constitutional rights when they assembled at the Jaro Cathedral to demand justice for Jory Porquia. In the light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the protesters duly observed "physical distancing" and were exercising their constitutional right of peaceful assembly, asserting their freedom of speech. The arrest of forty-two peaceful activists is a violation of citizens' constitutional right to assembly and freedom of expression.

With utmost confidence, we appeal to Your Honor in order to make sure that the forty-two peaceful human rights activists will be cleared without any bails from their arrest, thus permitting them to go back to their work, their duties and their commitments to Human Rights.

We request you to do everything in your power to clarify the murders of Jory Porquia, and to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. With this you can show that the Philippine government is trying to protect the human rights for all people in the Philippines. That is a great chance. Thank you!

Respectfully Yours,



Mr. Thomas Hoyer  
Managing Director of WeltPartner eG



Mr. Steffen Reese  
Executive Director Naturland e.V.

\*human rights activists to be released:

Elmer Forro, Mary Adrivene B. Dalida, Julrod Prino, Meriam Agbas, Mars Geraneo, Vivian Asong Apolinar, Alma Sumague, Rea D. Ogoy, Ana Marie G. Primalion, Ruth O. Alinsango, Jocelyn S. Gabion, Pergerie P. Panila, Sheba Q. Babac, Dave I. Cordero, Sharon Rose Nabua, Tessie C. Garachico, Inecitas A Ruedas, Ruben P. Obrero, Ronalyn G. Pronelos, Bonifacio M. Casipong, Edgardo A. Salarda, Saturnino Pitos, Jose Ely Garachico, Valiant Pabelona, Arjie Ertaleza, Krisma Nina Porqui, Crimson Labinghisa, Gabyel Rei T. Guillen, Randy Vergara, Marites Pinolan, Jean Tondo, Paz Garachico, Kervin Bonganciso, Bryan Bosque, MC Mace Sulayao, Marco Sulayao, Nelson Licoto, Ma. Preva Lhuz Cerdanio, John Marlon Jacar, Amel Catedrilla, Lucia Fernandez, Francisco, Angelo Karlo Guillen