



"Everyone has the right to freedom of expression"

Art. 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights
Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

President Rodrigo Duterte

Office of the President
Republic of the Philippines
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**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Philippines**

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Chief Prosecutor Peter D. Baliao

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Secretary of Justice Menardo Guevarra

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Berlin, Mainz, Wuppertal, May 20th 2020

Call to investigation and resolution of the assassination of Jory Porquia
Call to drop the charges against forty-two peaceful human rights activists*

Dear Mr. President Duterte, dear Mrs. Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines,
dear Chief Prosecutor Peter D. Baliao, dear Secretary of Justice Guevarra,

we are writing you on behalf of the Fair Trade Movement in Germany: in the name of GEPA – The Fair Trade Company, the biggest Fair Trade Organization in Europa who works with 131 Fair Trade organizations across the world, from Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe; in the name of Forum Fairer Handel, the German network of Fair Trade Organizations; and in the name of Weltladen-Dachverband, the German network of worldshops, representing 460 worldshop in Germany. Our organizations are leading actors in the Fair Trade Sector in Germany and worldwide, committed to selling Fair Trade products and promoting human rights and social and economic justice as standing principles of Fair Trade. For many years now we have maintained long-standing and very close trading relationships with our partners from the Philippines, e.g. Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC).

We want to express our deepest concerns regarding human rights violations in the Philippines. We strongly condemn the assassination of Jory Porquia, long-time environmental and human right activist and we urge that the killers be brought to justice. We appeal to you to ensure complete investigation and prosecution of the offenders and their backers.

On April 30th 2020 Jory Porquia's name was added to the long list of victims of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines. Jory Porquia was part of the staff 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.

We also call for the charges to be dropped against 42 activists arrested on May 1st 2020 by the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Iloilo City and released on bail on May 2nd 2020.

The 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 to peaceful assembly, asserting their freedom of speech. The arrest of forty-two peaceful activists is a violation of citizen's 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, thus permitting them to go back to their work, their duties and their commitments to Human Rights.

The case of Jory Porquia and forty-two human rights activists cannot be seen in isolation. The human rights situation in the Philippines has deteriorated significantly since the inauguration of President Rodrigo Duterte. Countless political activists, journalists, environmentalists working for the rights of smallholders and the observance of human rights have been murdered by members of the security forces. Local human rights organizations report several hundred cases of „extrajudicial executions“ in recent years. None of the perpetrators has been prosecuted.

We urge you to stand up for effective protection of human rights activists in the Philippines. 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.

Respectfully Yours,



Dr. Peter Schaumberger
Executive Director
GEPA – The Fair Trade Company



Matthias Fiedler
Executive Director
Forum Fairer Handel



Steffen Weber
Executive Director
Weltladen-Dachverband

Human Rights activists*:

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. Alinsangao, 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 Porquia, 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, Arnel Catedrilla, Lucia Fernandez, Francisco, Angelo Karlo Guillen