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President Rodrigo Duterte
Office of the President
Republic of the Philippines
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GEPA

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der Partnerschaft mit der
Dritten Welt mbH

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Ihr Zeichen

Unser Zeichen

Durchwahl

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Call to investigation and resolution of the assassination of Felix Salditos and six of his colleagues

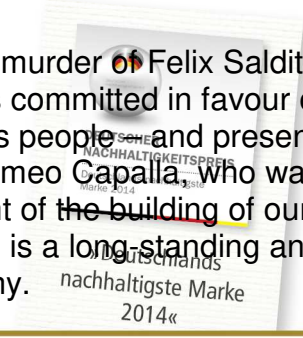
Dear Mr. President Duterte,

We would like to draw your attention to the brutal assassination of Felix Salditos, artist and husband of the former chairwoman of Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC), Ruth Fe Salditos. Together with six fellow workers, he was murdered on 15 August 2018 on Panay Island in the province of Antique. The seven men and women were travelling there to investigate on site issues like the destruction of slums and rising prices of staple foods as well as the needs and poverty situation of fisherfolk and workers on sugar cane plantations.

We strongly condemn the assassination of Felix Salditos and his colleagues. We appeal to you to ensure complete investigation and prosecution of the offenders and their backers.

The military and police who have killed the seven members of this group, speak of an armed confrontation with left-wing and armed guerrillas. Felix Salditos is said to have been among them. According to an independent investigation, the murdered persons were unarmed and the weapons found on site were rusty. The ammunition found did not match the weapons. The autopsy commissioned by the families of the dead proves that the seven men and women were executed at close range with shots in the heart or the head.

We are deeply affected and shocked by the brutal murder of Felix Salditos and his fellow workers. Like his wife Ruth, Mr Salditos was committed in favour of the people of Panay Island – peasants, fisherfolk and indigenous people and presented them in his political images. In memory of PFTC Chairman Romeo Capalla, who was murdered in 2014, he created a larger than life sculpture in front of the building of our trading partner Panay Fair Trade Center in Oton, Iloilo City. PFTC is a long-standing and very close trading partner of GEPA – The Fair Trade Company.



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The case of Felix Salditos and his colleagues cannot be seen in isolation. 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 organisations report several hundred cases of „extrajudicial executions“ in recent years. None of the perpetrators has been prosecuted.

We urge you as a President of the Philippines 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 Felix Salditos and his colleagues, and to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

Yours sincerely,

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

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For more than 40 years, GEPA – The Fair Trade Company has been going new ways as Fair Trade pioneers – serving the interests of its Southern partners. GEPA is backed by Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend (aej), Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR, Brot für die Welt, Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend (BDKJ), Kindermissionswerk »Die Sternsinger« e.V.

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