

GEPA®



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Mr President Benigno Aquino

GEPA

Gesellschaft zur Förderung der
Partnerschaft mit der Dritten Welt mbH

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Ihr Zeichen

Unser Zeichen

Durchwahl

Datum

-79

10/06/2014

Re: Call to investigation and resolution of the assassination of Dionisio Garete

Dear Mr President,

I am writing on behalf of GEPA – The Fair Trade Company, the biggest Fair Trade Organization in Europe which imports food and handicraft products from over 160 partner organizations in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

GEPA was founded in 1975 and is now considered a global leader in the Fair Trade movement. GEPA is a church owned organization, buying products at fair prices and conditions from our partner organizations and selling them in specialised Fair Trade Shops, organic and mainstream supermarkets.

Our overall aim is to work with and promote Fair Trade principles.

Today we would like to draw your attention to the assassination of Dionisio Garete, sugar cane farmer and member of Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC). On 28th of May he was shot on his way to the Jabafa mascobado mill with this harvested sugarcane.

In March we already applied to you because of the assassination of Romeo Capalla, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fair Trade Organization Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC). He was shot by unidentified gunmen at the Oton Public Market. Until now the perpetrators have not been identified.

Geschäftsführer: Matthias Kroth, Robin Roth, Thomas Speck · Aufsichtsratsvorsitzender: Tilman Henke · HRB 9377 Wuppertal

Mitglied der WFTO:

Bank im Bistum Essen eG
BLZ 360 602 95 · Konto 38 860 011
IBAN: DE90 3606 0295 0038 8600 11
BIC: GENODE1BBE

Pax-Bank eG, Aachen
BLZ 370 601 93 · Konto 1 009 453 012
IBAN: DE71 3706 0193 1009 4530 12
BIC: GENODE1PAX

Commerzbank AG
BLZ 330 400 01 · Konto 405 041 500
IBAN: DE88 3304 0001 0405 0415 00
BIC: COBADEFFXXX





We are deeply touched and profoundly shocked that again an innocent person had to die. Dionisio Garete was a member of Panay Fair Trade Center for many years. PFTC is a long-standing partner of ours and we have had a very close relationship with them for many years. PFTC is one of our most important and trustworthy partners.

We strongly condemn the assassination of Dionisio Garete and therefore sincerely hope that this tragic occurrence will be clarified soon.

According to observations from different sources we are informed that in the last years many leftist activists, journalists, environmentalists and peasants have been killed in the Philippines by alleged members of the security forces. Local human rights organizations reported approximately 170 cases of extrajudicial killings since 2001, unfortunately none of the perpetrators have been prosecuted.

With full trust we therefore appeal to you to make sure that the assassination of Dionisio Garete as well as the assassination of Romeo Capalla will be investigated and resolved soon. We consider it of the utmost importance to find out the perpetrators in order to bring them to justice.

Thus, I kindly ask you to undertake every endeavour to resolve this terrible incident.

Respectfully yours,


Robin Roth
General Manager Partner and Products
GEPA - The Fair Trade Company