

GEPA®



GEPA · Postfach 260147 · D-42243 Wuppertal

**President Benigno Aquino**

**GEPA**

Gesellschaft zur Förderung der  
Partnerschaft mit der Dritten Welt mbH

GEPA-Weg 1

D-42327 Wuppertal

Fon: +49 (0)2 02 / 2 66 83-0

Fax: +49 (0)2 02 / 2 66 83-10

E-Mail: [info@gepa.org](mailto:info@gepa.org)

[www.gepa.de](http://www.gepa.de)

Ihr Zeichen

Unser Zeichen

Durchwahl

Datum

**-79**

**March, 25th 2014**

**Re: Call to investigation and resolution of the assassination of Romeo Capalla**

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.

We would like to draw your attention to the assassination of Romeo Capalla, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fair Trade Organization Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC) and former Manager of PFTC, that occurred on March 15 in Oton, Iloilo. He was shot by unidentified gunmen at the Oton Public Market while at the same time the Muscovado Mill of KAMADA – a member organization of PFTC – was burned.

Earlier in 2005, Romeo Capalla was also arrested being accused of burning the equipment of an engineering firm. It is assumed that this case was a political harassment, as he later was acquitted by this false charge by the Court.

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 by the brutal death of Romeo Capalla, knowing him for many years as he was a pioneer in setting up and managing PFTC for a long time.

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.

In our cooperation over the last 20 years with PFTC, we experienced Romeo Capalla as an extremely committed, reliable and honest person who dedicated his passion and entire life to support small farmers and to fight for civil and human rights. He was the pillar of PFTC, always being very keen to promote the idea of Fair Trade on the Philippines.

We strongly condemn the assassination of Romeo Capalla 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 political 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 Romeo Capalla as well as the arson of the Muscovado Mill of Kamada 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



Gesellschaft zur Förderung  
der Partnerschaft  
mit der Dritten Welt mbH  
GEPA-Weg 1  
42327 Wuppertal  
Fon: 02 02 / 2 66 83 - 0