



**To:**

President Benigno Aquino

October 9th 2014

**Re: Dismissal of the investigations of the assassination of Romeo Capalla**

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing you on behalf of different Fair Trade Organizations all over the world being considered global leaders in the Fair Trade movement.

It is our aim to support and promote disadvantaged producers in the south by buying products at fair prices and conditions from them. Our overall objective is to work with and promote Fair Trade principles.

We would like to draw your attention to the recent dismissal of the investigations of 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.

Many of us are long-term partners from PFTC and we have been working together for more than 25 years. PFTC is a very important and trustworthy partner to us.

We are still deeply touched and profoundly shocked by the tragic occurrences that happened six months ago in Iloilo.

In order to express our sadness and to demand justice for the murder victims, Rudi Dalvai, president of the WFTO, participated on behalf of many Fair Trade organizations in the international fact-finding mission (IFFM) taking place in August in Iloilo. The aim of the mission was to make the incidents public as well as to look into the status of the investigation six months after Romeo Capalla had been killed. More than 500 people attended the mission – a clear signal for a strong solidarity and a demand for justice!

During the mission it unfortunately became obvious that the responsible authorities are not seriously pursuing the investigations in order to arrest the perpetrators.

Having followed the incidents in Iloilo from the beginning on, we are really disappointed by the slow progress in investigating the assassination of Romeo Capalla as well as of Dionisio Garete.

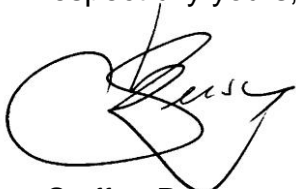
Recently we have been informed that the prosecutor's office has dismissed the case against a suspected killer of Romeo Capalla.

We strongly condemn the insufficient handling of the investigation of the assassination of Romeo Capalla, which finally led to the dismissal of the complaint.

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

Being 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, we even more urge for clarification of these criminal acts.


Respectfully yours,



Steffen Reese

**Naturland**


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