



Fair für mich.
Fair für alle.

"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

Chief Prosecutor Peter D. Baliao

Iloilo City Prosecutors Office Hall of Justice,
Iloilo City 5000
Republic of the Philippines
icpo.doj15@gmail.com

Secretary of Justice Menardo Guevarra

Department of Justice Padre Faura Street Ermita,
Manila 1000
Republic of the Philippines
communications@doj.gov.ph

Weng, May 14th 2020

Re: Call to drop the charges against forty-two peaceful Human Rights activists*

Dear Chief Prosecutor Peter D. Baliao and Secretary of Justice Guevarra,

I am writing on behalf of EZA Fairer Handel, the biggest Fair Trade organization in Austria, who works with 137 other organizations across the world, from Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe. EZA Fairer Handel is the biggest Fair Trade import organization in Austria and one of the first Fair Trade organizations in Europe founded 1975. Since then we sell Fair Trade products and promote Human Rights and social and economic Justice as standing principles of Fair Trade. Since 1979 we import products from the Philippines directly and support disadvantaged producers to improve their living and working conditions.

We want to express our deep concerns regarding Human Rights violations in the Philippines.

We condemn in the strongest terms the murder of Jory Porquia, long-time Environmental and Human Right activist and we ask that the killers be brought to Justice.

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

Last but not least 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.

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Landesgericht Salzburg
Firmenbuch-Nr.: 69275 a
DVR: 0419605, ARA-Nr.: 1331
UID-Nr: ATU 34758704

Mitglied bei: EFTA/
European Fair Trade Association
und IFAT/The International
Fair Trade Association



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The protesters were exercising their Constitutional rights when they assembled at the Jaro Cathedral to demand justice for Jory Porquia.

The arrest of forty-two peaceful activists is a violation of citizen's Constitutional right to assembly and freedom of expression. This happened on the same day workers worldwide celebrated International Labor Day, and while the Philippines and the whole world are under the grip of the Covid19 pandemic.

In light of the Covid19 pandemic, the protesters duly observed "physical distancing", and were exercising their Constitutional Right to peaceful assembly, asserting their freedom of speech.

The Bill of Rights guaranteed by the Constitution ordains:

"No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances."

Section 4, Article 3 of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines.

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.

Respectfully Yours,

Daniel Kern

Managing Director

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

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