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JUSTICE FOR ATTY. BENJAMIN T. RAMOS JR.!

JUSTICE FOR ALL VICTIMS OF EXTRA JUDICIAL KILLINGS!

WE STRONGLY CONDEMN THE KILLING OF ATTY. BENJAMIN T. RAMOS JR!

Atty. Benjamin Tarug Ramos, Jr. is a people’s lawyer and staunch advocate of PEOPLE’S RIGHTS in Negros Island.

THE INCIDENT OF THE KILLING HAS ALL THE ELEMENTS OF AN EXTRA JUDICIAL KILLING (EJK)! He was vilified by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on allegation that he was an NPA lawyer. In April of this year, his photo was among those listed in a poster as CPP-NPA-NDF (CNN) personalities that was pasted by the Philippine National Police in the town of Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental. He was maliciously linked by the 15th Infantry Battalion in an Internal Security Operations (ISO) briefing before members of the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) in the municipality of Cauayan, south of Negros Occidental. A week before his assassination, it was observed that he was being tailed by motorcycle-riding men.

At around 9:30 in the evening of November 6, 2018, in Roxas St, Barangay 5, a poblacion barangay of Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, while standing in front of a store, men in bonnet riding on a motorcycle shot him four (4) times. He was brought to the hospital in Kabankalan City but was declared dead on arrival.

It can be recalled that in 2006 and 2007 he was also subjected to surveillance by military intelligence and an attempt on his life.

Atty. Benjamin T. Ramos, Jr. is a founding member and an Executive Director of Paghida-et sa Kauswagan Development Group, Inc. (PDG), a Kabankalan-based non-government organization serving the poor and marginalized sector in Southern Negros Occidental since 1986. He was one of the pro bono lawyers who handled land-related cases of sugar cane workers and small farmers. As a dedicated people’s lawyer, he extended his pro bono services to rural poor sectors in their struggle to assert for their human rights and rights to land and food into the entire Negros Island.

Atty. Benjamin T. Ramos Jr. is also the Secretary General of the National Union of People’s Lawyer (NUPL) and the founding Secretary General of the “September 21 Movement – Southern Negros”, a human rights alliance and local chapter of Karapatan.

We hold the ruling elite, most especially the big landlords and the fascist troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as the forces behind the killing of Atty. Benjamin T. Ramos, Jr.! All accounts and circumstances point to Extra Judicial Killing (EJK) that targeted personalities of the progressive organizations and human rights advocates.

THE KILLING OF ATTY. BENJAMIN T. RAMOS, JR. WILL NOT COW US AND THE POOR COMMUNITIES WE SERVE, TO SUBMISSION AND SILENCE!

Salamat Ben, for all the dedication and sacrifices you shared as you served the people.

We will be more inspired and will courageously continue to fight for people's rights and genuine peace. ###