

## Belmonte orders thorough probe of Salamida killing

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QUEZON City Mayor Josefina “Joy” Belmonte said on Thursday the killer of journalist Gwenn Salamida would face the full brunt of the law.

“I am also extending my condolences Road, Barangay Apolonio Samson and sympathy to the family of on Tuesday afternoon when an Ms. Salamida as I promised to personally unidentified assailant barged into monitor the investigation into the beauty shop and fired shots. the murder to make sure she would Salamida was hit at the back of get swift and immediate justice,” Belmonte her head. She also sustained gunshot told The Manila Times. wounds in her hands.

Salamida, a former editor and Perona, who was hit in the leg operations manager of tabloid and chest, remains in critical condition Remate, and Oliver Perona, who at the Quezon City General is said to be her partner and employee, Hospital. were cleaning inside her The gunman fled on a motorcycle GOTT Salon and Spa in Kaingin driven by his cohort, reports said.

“Ms. Salamida was a beloved member of the media, an honest business owner, and an up-standing QCitizen. We fervently condemn her brutal murder. On behalf of the Quezon City government and the QCPD (Quezon City Police District), we would like to assure the victims’ respective families we will be applying the full power of the law to hunt down the perpetrator of this heinous crime,” Belmonte said, adding the QCPD-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit has already concluded its initial investigation and “has commenced further steps to identify and apprehend the assailant.”

Philippine National Police chief Gen. Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar said the QCPD was initially looking into robbery as the motive behind the shooting though other angles are being explored.

“I have tasked the Quezon City Police District to thoroughly investigate this incident. We extend our condolences to the victim’s family and we will ensure justice is served in her death,” Eleazar said.

Reliable sources, however, are discounting the robbery angle as the assailant left without taking any money or valuables.

“That could be a hit job, meaning the gunman was hired to silence the victim but it’s all up to the authorities to explore all possible angles,” one source said.

Salamida also worked as advertising manager of tabloid Saksi Ngayon at the time of her death.