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Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Old Sangsad Bhaban

Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

People's Republic of Bangladesh

Via email to info@pmo.gov.bd, mission.bangladesh@ties.itu.int

April 4, 2014

Dear Prime Minister Hasina,

Today marks a full two years since Aminul Islam was tortured and murdered. Nobody has yet been held accountable for this crime. Aminul Islam was a worker organizer and labor rights defender. He was President of the Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers' Federation's (BGIWF) local committee in the Savar and Ashulia areas of Dhaka and a senior organizer with the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS).

Two years ago we wrote to you, urging your government to conduct a comprehensive and impartial investigation of the disappearance, torture, and murder of Aminul Islam. Last year we wrote again expressing disappointment that so little progress has been achieved in identifying and prosecuting the killers.

We now call on your government to reopen the investigation and ensure a credible, independent, and transparent investigation into Aminul Islam's death and to ensure that the perpetrators of the torture and murder are prosecuted. Information has been provided to the government of Bangladesh that merits investigation. Your government has a responsibility to exhaust all possible leads.

The torture and murder of Aminul Islam has sent a chilling message to workers who seek to organize to defend their rights and protect their safety. This is why U.S. Secretary Hillary Clinton publicly condemned the murder; why the U.S. Congressional Bangladesh Caucus urged you to ensure "no stone [is] left unturned in the search for justice;" why industry associations from Europe and North America expressed concern that Aminul Islam's death could be perceived as "a deliberate campaign to repress efforts to raise and address issues related to unsatisfactory working conditions in the RMG sector;" and why President Obama insisted that a transparent investigation into the murder of Aminul Islam is a precondition for Bangladesh to receive GSP benefits.

Continued impunity for those who perpetrated this crime only aggravates the injury to workers and exacerbates a climate of fear among workers seeking better working conditions.

Nobody has forgotten Aminul Islam and the horrific circumstances in which he died. Nobody will forget. This is our third letter to you urging an independent and transparent investigation to bring the perpetrators to justice. We hope it will be our last.

Sincerely,

Judy Gearhart
Executive Director
International Labor Rights Forum