

National Garments Workers Federation

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Factory owners, Government, Buyers and BGMEA should take effective step so that not a single Garment worker in future has to die in factory-fire like that of the 125 workers of Tazreen Garments of Nischintopur in Ashulia

Factory owners, Government, Buyers and BGMEA should take effective step so that in future not a single garment worker has to die in factory-fire. We do not want to see such incident, which workers return to their home as dead body after they came to work. So, the garment factories should be developed as 'safe workplace'. Factory owners, Government, Buyers and trade union organizations should work together for this. NGWF leaders this today.

They said this while addressing a garment workers gathering—before black & red flag mourning & protest procession—organized by National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF) to protest the killing of 125 workers in Tazreen Garment factory-fire at Ashulia & to pay tributes to the deceased workers and demanding greater compensation (as per definition of loss of earnings) to deceased workers families, necessary medical treatment to injured workers and developing garment industry into safe workplace. The program was held at 12:00noons in front of National Press Club in Dhaka city. More than 1,000 garment workers took part in the program.

The program was presided over by NGWF President Amirul Haque Amin. The rally was addressed by Workers Party (WP) President Rashed Khan Menon MP, WP General Secretary Anisur Rahman Mallick, WP Polit Bureau member Fazle Hossain Badsha MP, SKOP Coordinator Dr Wazedul Islam Khan, Bangladesh Juba Moitree General Secretary Sabbah Ali Khan Collins, Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council Coordinator M Delowar Hossain, NGWF Gernereral Secretary Ms Saifa Parveen, Vice-President Md Faruk Khan, Ms Sultana Akter, Md Kabir Hossain and Md Rafiq, among others.

The speakers told the rally that the 125 garment workers, who died in Tazreen Garment fire, died due to negligence of the factory owners. So, this nothing but killing of workers in owner's negligence. They demanded immediate trial & punishment the factory owner for the responsibility of this killing.

At the rally the NGWF announced a 7-point charter of demands, which is follows:

- 1) Family of the each of the deceased workers should be paid greater compensation as definition of loss of earnings. Responsibility of paying this compensation lies with the factory owner, multinational companies, who were sourcing from the factory, government and BGMEA.
- 2) Urgent arrangement of necessary medical treatment to injured workers.
- 3) Punishment of the persons, including factory owner, responsible for the fire incident after identifying the perpetrators of the offense through conducting a neutral enquiry.
- 4) The whole garment sector in Bangladesh should be developed into 'safe workplace'. Factory owners, buyers, government and labor organizations should work together for this.
- 5) Ensuring unhindered trade union right and CBA facilities for the garment workers.
- 6) Implementation of law of the land, including Labor Law, in garment industry.
- 7) Suppressing, in iron hand, any move by any quarters to destabilize the country using the garment sector.

Meanwhile, 1) NGWF brought out a black-flag mourning procession on 25.11.2012 to express grief at the death of 125 garment workers in Tazreen Garments fire.

2) On 26.2012 NGWF, Bangladesh National Committee (BNC) & Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council (BGUWC) another black flag mourning procession was took out in Dhaka city for Tazreen Garment fire deaths.

Besides, NGWF is maintaining contacts with the families of the dead workers and injured workers.

Press Secretary, NGWF