



Honorable Sheikh Hasina
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

Board of Directors

Cam Duncan
President
Eric Dirnbach
Vice President
Carol Rosenblatt
Secretary
Katherine Isaac
Treasurer

April 2, 2015

Arturo Alcalde Justiniani
Kim Bobo
John Cavanagh
May Chen
Lance Compa
Joseph Eldridge
Cathy Feingold
Judy Gearhart
Ken Grossinger
Sarita Gupta
Mark Harrison
Yvette Herrera
Owen Herrnstadt
Lorretta Johnson
Yvette Pena-O'Sullivan
Patricia Pineda
Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Daniel Smith
Chris Townsend

Dear Honorable Prime Minister Hasina,

Saturday, April 4, marks a full three 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 and again last year we wrote to you, urging your government to conduct a comprehensive and impartial investigation of the disappearance, torture, and murder of Aminul Islam.

We now call on your government to end the impunity: Prosecute those responsible. Do not let this heinous crime go unpunished.

Impunity for the torture and murder of Aminul Islam sends a chilling message to workers. What happened to Aminul could happen to me, they think. And so, instead of exercising their rights under the law to unionize and negotiate with owners, they do nothing. Instead of telling inspectors about fatal building flaws or fire dangers, they stay silent. When these channels of negotiation and reporting are closed to workers, they can only make their voices heard through protest, escalating tensions that could be resolved through the proper mechanisms of industrial relations.

Impunity for the murder and torture of Aminul Islam thus comes at a high price: lack of safety for workers; lack of stability for owners—a lose-lose proposition.

Aminul Islam lives in our memory as a labor organizer who dedicated his life to a safe and prosperous Bangladeshi garment industry where workers find dignity and respect.

We urge you to honor the memory of Aminul Islam by finally prosecuting those responsible for his torture and murder. In so doing, you will be telling workers that they have a government that will stand on their side when they speak up for their rights, a government that will protect them when they demand safety and dignity at work. This would be a government of which Aminul Islam could be proud.

Sincerely,

Judy Gearhart
Executive Director
International Labor Rights Forum