

MICHAEL SOMMER
PRESIDENT
PRÉSIDENT
PRÄSIDENT
PRESIDENTE

SHARAN BURROW
GENERAL SECRETARY
SECÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE
GENERALSEKRETÄRIN
SECRETARIA GENERAL

Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister's Office
Old Sangsad Bhaban
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
People's Republic of Bangladesh

HTUR/JSV

9 April 2013

Murder of Aminul Islam

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which represents 175 million workers in 156 countries and territories - including in Bangladesh - to express our deep concern that your government has failed to fully investigate the torture and murder of trade union leader Aminul Islam and to bring those responsible to justice.

As you are aware, Aminul Islam's body was found on Thursday, April 5, one day after he was last seen by his family and co-workers, and bore signs of extensive torture. The murder of Mr. Islam was only the latest in an on-going series of actions aimed at threatening and intimidating advocates working on behalf of the country's garment workers. Several of these actions were carried out with the assistance of state security officials, and there have been credible reports of the involvement of the National Security Intelligence agency in the murder of Aminul Islam.

On 10 April 2012, we wrote to ask that your government ensure an expeditious, independent and thorough investigation of the murder of Aminul Islam and to arrest and prosecute those responsible. On 17 July, we again urged your government to take action on this case, as well as the murder of other trade union activists. We have yet to receive a reply to those letters. The ITUC is deeply disappointed that now, one year later, so little progress has been made in identifying and prosecuting Mr. Islam's killer.

We request that your government inform us as soon as possible of the steps which it is taking in this regard. Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Secretary General

cc:

Chairman
Human Rights Commission

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Secretary
Ministry of Commerce
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

The Honorable Minister
Ministry of Labour and Employment
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Major General ATM Shahidul Islam, ndc, psc
Executive Chairman
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA)