



Her Honorable Sheikh Hasina Wazed
Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

His Excellency Mr. Md. Enamul KABIR
Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of France

**Object: Request for investigation into the death of
Mr. Aminul Islam Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS)**

Dear Honorable Sheikh Prime Minister,

We are writing on behalf of Initiative Clause Social, a French partnership among retailers sharing the same goal to improve working conditions of workers worldwide. Our mission is to act together for sustainable improvements on working condition with our suppliers sharing a main focus on Human Rights.

Textile sector in Bangladesh is extremely significant to ICS members and the respect of ICS Code based on international labour standards and on national law is an essential condition to produce our goods.

Alongside our ICS members, we would like to express our deep concern regarding the murder of Mr. Aminul Islam, of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS), and add our voice to the calls for justice. International media have reported that Mr. Islam was found dead on 5 April, a day after his family and colleagues say he went missing. The local Bangladeshi police report states that Mr. Islam's body bore signs of brutal torture.

Labour rights advocates are the voice of the under-represented, raising awareness of the often unacceptable working conditions of factory workers across the globe. We recognise the work of Mr. Aminul Islam and his colleagues.

Mr. Islam and his colleagues at the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS) have previously been the subjects of intimidation and harassment, and this latest turn of events has concerned those of us striving to improve working conditions in Bangladesh. The torture and murder of Mr. Islam also presents us with concern for the physical safety of his BCWS colleagues, who we understand continue to face unsubstantiated criminal charges.

We recognise that the Bangladesh government has taken measures to improve the working conditions of workers in the garment sector. We join with other Human Rights and Labour Rights organisations in urging Bangladesh Government to immediately launch a comprehensive and impartial investigation of the disappearance, torture, and murder of Mr. Islam. The result must be made public. We also ask you to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice and urge your Government to undertake effective measures to ensure the safety of all human rights defenders in Bangladesh.

We will appreciate your prompt attention to this deeply troubling matter.

Sincerely,

Carole HOMMEY
ICS coordinator

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