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President: Berthold Huber
General Secretary: Jyrki Raina

Geneva, 1st April 2016

The Honourable Sheikh Hasina,
Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh,
Old Sangshad Bhaban,
Tejgaon, Dhaka 1215 BANGLADESH

Sent by email to info@pmo.gov.bd; pm@pmo.gov.bd; ps1topm@pmo.gov.bd;

IndustriALL Global Union strongly condemns shooting at shipbreaking workers, and calls on the government of Bangladesh to ensure safe working conditions at shipbreaking yards

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing this letter to you as Secretary General of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), representing more than fifty million workers in the mining, energy and manufacturing industries, including shipbuilding and shipbreaking, in some 140 countries worldwide, including Bangladesh, to condemn in the strongest terms the shooting of workers and members of the local community, by security guards, at the Kabir Steel shipbreaking yard in Chittagong. Seven people were injured, including a 16-year-old boy. The incident happened at a protest against the death of a worker in an industrial accident at Kabir Steel on 28 March 2016.

We demand an investigation into why such brutal force was used against the protestors and the guilty must be punished. According to your government's own estimate, 16 shipbreaking workers lost their lives in 2014, and at least 13 workers were killed in 2015. We are alarmed that this trend in loss of lives at shipbreaking yards seems to continue in 2016, as the first three months have already witnessed the deaths of four workers.

We can no longer afford to continue the business as usual attitude as workers risk their lives every day at Bangladesh's shipbreaking yards.

IndustriALL calls upon the government of Bangladesh to ensure that accident victims are provided appropriate compensation and to punish employers who operate shipbreaking yards with gross negligence.

Furthermore, we call on the government of Bangladesh to strengthen its supervisory mechanisms, work jointly with workers' representatives, and intensify its efforts to ensure safe working conditions at the shipbreaking yards.

We strongly urge your government to immediately implement the newly revised Bangladesh Ship Recycling Act 2015, and to accelerate steps to ratify the Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.

Yours sincerely,



Jyrki Raina
General Secretary

Copied to /-

Alhaz Amir Hossain Amu, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Industries

Mr. Md. Mojibul Haque, Honourable State Minister, Ministry of Labour and Employment

Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office

Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Secretary, Ministry of Industries

Mr. Mikail Shipar, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment

