

Geneva, 20 September 2012

Mr Raja Pervaiz Ashraf  
Prime Minister of Pakistan  
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## Workers demands following non-compliance with fire security that kills hundreds of workers

Dear Mr Pervaiz Ashraf,

On 12 September, I sent you a letter expressing our sadness and outrage for the loss of more than 300 workers in a fire accident in Karachi. On behalf of the IndustriALL Global Union family, I also demanded compensation for the family of the victims, compensation for the injured, that wages continues to be paid to survivors until they come back to work.

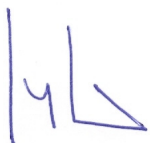
I understand that the Pakistani government accepted to compensate registered workers and their family and I look forward for the rapid implementation of this scheme, which I hope has been set-up in consultation with trade unions. However, I am very concerned about the workers who are not registered as those are also the most vulnerable in term of wages and social security. On behalf of IndustriALL, I am calling on you to identify unregistered workers with the help of the trade unions and workers with contract. All workers faced the same tragedy, they face the same loss, emotionally and financially, therefore, none should suffer from the greed and illegal actions of the employers.

By now, you know that a month ago, Ali Enterprise was audited by an accredited body of SAAS and received the SA8000 prestigious international standard on decent work which claims to put emphasis in health and safety and freedom of association among other international standards. When interviewed after this tragedy, workers said that they were threatened by management if they tell the truth on what's happening inside the factory. This is an alarm ring for all of us to understand that if workers, who are day by day in the factory, have no way to report and be protected from the employers when reporting, there is always a huge risk that such tragedy in one form or another happens again. Therefore I am calling on you to enforce the law on freedom of association and collective bargaining, a basic workers' right, and that all workplaces are represented by a union.

Finally, and as a follow-up to my above demands, I call on you to involve the trade unions for commissions set-up to investigate and to devise the compensations for workers. Indeed, as the latter are the most hit in this tragedy, their views should be represented and act upon.

Dear Mr Prime Minister, IndustriALL Global Union, representing 50 million industrial workers in 140 countries, offers its cooperation to the Pakistani government to improve safety and working conditions and thus help restore the damaged reputation of your country as a manufacturing location. We would be willing to discuss these important questions with the representatives of your government in the very near future.

Yours sincerely,



Jyrki Raina  
General Secretary