

Geneva 15 November 2023

IndustriALL steering committee for the textile and garment sector statement on the violent attacks on peaceful protesters in Bangladesh

The new minimum wage of BDT12,500 (US\$112), announced on 9 November, is woefully inadequate and keeps workers under the poverty line.

The announcement of the new minimum wage led to intensified workers' protests, calling for a living wage. In return, authorities and police escalated their violent response; to date four workers have been killed.

During the protests, nearly 100 workers have been arrested and criminal charges have been filed. Union leaders and workers are continuously harassed, and blacklisting is rampant.

Trade unionism is not a crime; the blacklisting of workers must stop immediately and those arrested should be released and charges dropped.

We, the steering committee, stand in solidarity with Bangladesh's garment workers and reiterate the call from the IndustriALL Bangladesh Council that:

- The four killings during the protests are properly investigated, that those responsible are brought to justice and that the workers' families are duly compensated.
- Medical care should be provided to workers who are injured.
- The closed factories immediately reopen and that the workers are paid full wages
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina intervenes to increase the minimum wage.