



## **Asia Floor Wage Alliance**

### **Solidarity Statement with Injured Bangladesh Garment Workers And Union Members During Peaceful Demonstration**

*14 August 2025*

Asia Floor Wage Alliance (AFWA) stands in unwavering solidarity with our alliance partner, the Bangladesh Garment and Sweater Workers Trade Union Centre (BGSWTUC), after a brutal and unprovoked police assault on a peaceful demonstration in Dhaka on 13<sup>th</sup> August. The attack left at least thirty workers with serious injuries, among them General Secretary Kazi Ruhul Amin and multiple district leaders, along with workers including Sufia Begum, Salma Akter, Amir Hossain and twelve others who have been hospitalised at Dhaka Medical College, after being attacked for lawfully demanding rightful compensation.

#### **Workers Seek Rightful Compensation and Enforcement of Legal Agreement**

The demonstration arose from a prolonged dispute involving 763 workers from Style Craft Limited and Youngones (BD) Ltd. Unit-2 in Gazipur, who were terminated without receiving due payments. After prolonged struggles, a tripartite agreement was signed on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 in a meeting chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, establishing a framework for payments in four installments.

However, implementation has fallen short of commitments through a pattern of delays and unfulfilled commitments to workers. While 460 workers received the first installment on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 303 workers remained unpaid in violation of the agreement. The second installment, scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> July, has not materialised despite assurances from the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) in Gazipur. After exhausting official channels through repeated appeals to relevant authorities, workers organised a peaceful march to submit a memorandum to the Chief Advisor.

#### **Workers Assaulted for Lawful Peaceful Assembly**



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At approximately 11:00 AM, workers assembled in front of the National Press Club for a pre-announced, lawful demonstration. When the peaceful procession reached the front of the High Court, they were attacked by the police, resulting in the serious injury of at least thirty participants who required hospitalisation.

When government-mediated agreements are not honoured and workers seeking earned wages through peaceful, legal means face such consequences, it undermines both labour relations and Bangladesh's reputation as a responsible partner in global supply chains.

The right to peaceful assembly and petition represents a fundamental democratic principle. Garment workers, who have contributed immensely to Bangladesh's economic development deserve protection when exercising their constitutional rights, particularly in seeking implementation of officially sanctioned agreements.

AFWA stands in full alignment with GSWTUC's demands:

1. **Agreement Implementation:** Honour the tripartite commitment by providing immediate and full payment of all dues to unpaid workers as originally stipulated.
2. **Transparent Review:** Conduct a prompt and impartial investigation into both the police assault on this peaceful demonstration and into the violations of the tripartite agreement - ensuring accountability and justice for the affected workers and union members.
3. **Rights Protection:** Safeguard workers' constitutional rights to peaceful assembly and petition government for redress. Police must not target workers who are exercising their lawful and democratic rights.



## **Asia Floor Wage Alliance**

AFWA, representing garment workers and their trade unions across Asia, recognises Bangladesh's ongoing democratic transition and economic challenges. Bangladesh's commitment to worker rights and democratic principles can be strengthened through fair implementation and protection of peaceful assembly and freedom of association. We call upon the relevant authorities to respond in good faith, within a reasonable timeframe, demonstrating that the rights and dignity of Bangladesh's garment workers will be respected and protected.

AFWA remains in unwavering solidarity with our partner GSWTUC's approach for justice and looks forward to a swift, fair resolution that honours both the tripartite agreement and Bangladesh's democratic values. An injury to workers in one country affects the global labor movement—we stand together until justice is achieved.