

22 April 2024

PRESS RELEASE

**24 April 2024: 11 years of Rana Plaza Building Collapse
Demands for accountability, justice and memorial plaques to the victims**

On 24 April 2013, 1,135 workers were killed, and another 1,169 workers were seriously injured in the "Rana Plaza" building collapse. Even though 11 years have passed since the disaster, a total of 20 cases are ongoing regarding this incident, none of which has been disposed of. Even all the accused except one, are on bail. Among these cases, the criminal cases filed by the Directorate of Inspection of Factories and Establishments (DIFE) in the Labour Court are still at the stage of issuance of arrest warrants. Although many affected workers and their families have received financial assistance from the Rana Plaza Trust Fund, no compensation has yet been paid to the affected workers or their families. Also, after this disaster, the state and employers have taken many initiatives to ensure a safe working environment for the workers, but accountability and justice have not yet been ensured.

The Bangladesh Labour Act stipulates a minimum compensation of BDT 2 lacs for deceased workers and BDT 2 lacs and 50 thousand for injured workers which is not appropriate in the present time at all. BLAST calls for necessary legislative amendments to provide adequate compensation to injured workers and the family members of the deceased workers. Also, BLAST insisted on taking into consideration future wages, gratuity due at the end of service, estimated medical expenses, estimated expenses of family members, mental stress of the worker after the accident and above all taking consideration of the international standards and High Court precedents while determining the amount of compensation to the injured or deceased workers in such an accident.

BLAST recommends the following 10 points demands to ensure accountability of those responsible for this incident as well as adequate compensation and rehabilitation of the affected workers and their families -

- 1) To ensure speedy trial of the pending criminal cases and take measures to dispose of murder cases filed in this incident within six (06) months as per the instructions of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.
- 2) To ensure the supervision of the Ministry to ensure the presence of the representatives of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments on the dates of hearing of the pending criminal cases filed in the Labour Court and the issuance of arrest warrants.
- 3) To identify the actual reasons for not disposing of the cases even after a long has elapsed and to bring accountability upon the person(s) responsible for this delay. Besides, if legal loopholes is responsible for such delay, required to review and bring necessary amendments in existing law.
- 4) To consider these cases as more sensitive cases.
- 5) To publish and disseminate continuous reports in the media regarding the regular progress and protractedness of all these cases.
- 6) Injured workers and family members of the deceased workers affected in various accidents across the country including Rana Plaza and Tazreen Fashion should be given adequate compensation to the victims based on ILO Convention 121, Torts Act and Fatal Accidents Act, 1855 considering the loss of income of the workers throughout their lives and the compensation awarded by the court in

various accidents. For this purpose, the National Labour Welfare Fund should be formed and a national standard for compensation should be developed.

- 7) To ensure rehabilitation of all injured workers and deceased workers' family members including long-term treatment including psychosocial treatment of Rana Plaza building collapse and take actions to monitor the said measures.
- 8) To construct memorials in memory of all those who lost their lives in Savar and Jurain disasters and place nameplates in Jurain cemetery in memory of deceased workers of Rana Plaza building collapse.
- 9) To publish an annual inspection report (including progress and accident information) to ensure a safe working environment and health protection as per labour law.
- 10) To strengthen the supervision and proper implementation of the [National Occupational Safety Policy](#) by the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments.

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