



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

Brussels, 16 February 2017
Ref: 12464/OR/mh

Call for the release of jailed trade unionists

Dear Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,

On behalf of UNI Europa, IndustriAll, ITUC, ETUC, LBC-NVK, SETCa-BBTK and Clean Clothes Campaign, we are writing to call on your government to immediately release all detained garment trade union leaders and worker activists, and drop all charges against them.

Wages in Bangladesh's garment industry are among the lowest in the world. It is unacceptable that the demand to increase the minimum wage is met with arbitrary detentions, suspended production at 59 factories, the firing of well over 1,600 workers and police cases against 600 workers and trade union leaders.

Garment workers in Bangladesh have the unequivocal right to organize and must be paid a living wage on which they can survive. We urge the government to immediately and unconditionally release the detained trade union leaders and activists, and drop all related criminal cases.

Yours sincerely,



Oliver Roethig
Regional Secretary
UNI Europa



Luc Triangle
General Secretary
IndustriAll Europe



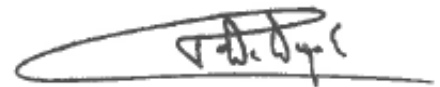
Luca Visentini
General Secretary
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Sharan Burrow
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cc. UNI Global Union