



9<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

Press Release

**Blast demands proper investigation of the fire incident at the Sezan Juice Factory in Rupganj, Narayanganj, along with the punishment for the responsible persons and adequate compensation for the victims.**

According to media reports, 52 workers have been killed so far in a [fire at Shezan Juice Factory, Rupganj, Narayanganj](#) that broke out yesterday. There are allegations that many workers jumped out of the building as exits inside the factory were locked. We demand speedy trial and punishment of those responsible for this tragic murder incident through a fair investigation. In addition, we demand immediate financial assistance from the Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation, as well as adequate compensation for the killed and injured workers from the employers, and arrangements for the proper treatment of the injured.

Horrific catastrophes like Rana Plaza collapse, Tazreen Factory Fire and Tampaco Factory Fire illustrate the dire state of workers safety in the country. Safe working conditions must be ensured in all factories so workers' lives are not constantly at risk. Chapter XII of Bangladesh Labor Act 2006 read with the Fifth Schedule to the Act, stipulates insufficient amounts as compensation for those killed or injured at the workplace. The law needs to be urgently amended so the amount of compensation is just and adequate, and in line with Supreme Court jurisprudence on damages assessment and international labour law standards.

While such reform is underway, compensation for workers killed and injured at this particular fire must draw from the assessment criteria adopted by the Rana Plaza Arrangement, and reflect the actual extent of financial and non-financial losses suffered by the victims. Additionally, the investigation into the cause of and responsibility for the fire, including into the allegations of lack of fire safety measures and locked exits inside the factory must be promptly conducted in a transparent manner. We urge the concerned authorities to properly monitor the safety and security of the workers.

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