



Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
A Legal Aid & Human Rights Organisation



11 July 2021

Press Release

Writ filed Seeking Justice and Compensation for Hashem Food Factory Fire

Today, on 11th of July 2021, a virtual court comprising Mr. Justice M. Enaytur Rahim said that the court is observing the matter of fire incident in Shezan Juice Factory closely and the hon'ble court made an oral direction upon the Deputy Attorney Genral to request Attorney General to speak with the Secretary of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour and Employment to ensure the medical treatment of the injured workers and publish a list of the injured persons with their medical condition. The honourable court apprecaiated the petiitoners for bringing the matter before the court and also mentioned that as the owner has declared that they will take the resposibility of the treatment of injured persons if any further negligence occur here or any urgency required the petioners can again raise the matter in the court.

Background: Four Human Rights Organization, Bangladesh Legal Aid & Services Trust (BLAST), Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA) and Safety and Rights Soceity (SRS) filed a writ petition challenging the failure of the respondents to ensure effective enforcement of applicable laws on workplace safety, in particular regarding prevention of fire, and also laws on building safety, resulting in the deaths and injuries of workers from a preventable fire which broke out at the six-storey factory building of Hashem Foods Limited, in Bhulta, Rupgonj, Narayanganj on 08.07.2021, caused the death of 52 workers and injury to 50 workers amounting to breach of their constitutional duties, including the duty to protect the right to life and other specific statutory duties. That even when such fires break out, the existence of fire safety measures, such as fire alarms, fire sprinklers, fire extinguishers and fire exits, could have ensured that the loss of human lives was minimised if not avoided.

The petitioners' sought proper investigation of the incident and submit the report before the court, and also compensation money of Taka 5 Crore to the family of deceased workers and 1 Crore to the injured workers. Interim payment of Taka 20 lacs to the family of the deceased workers and 10 lacs to the injured family is also prayed in the petition.

Senior Advocate Z.I.Khan Panna, Barrister Sara Hossain, Barrister Aneek R Haque, Advocate S.M Rezaul Karim, Adovcate Nina Ghowshami, Advocate Sayeed Ahmed Kabir, Advocate Shahin, Barrister Sharmin Akter appreaed for the petitioners and Deputy Attorney General Samerendranath Biswas appreaed for the respondents.

For Further Information Please Contact:

Barrister Sharmin Akter

Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Sr. Staff Lawyer, BLAST

Phone: 01717444311

E-Mail: sharmin1@blast.org.bd