



TAZREEN SURVIVORS: Still Suffering

The third anniversary of the deadly factory fire

- Bangladesh's \$25 billion garment industry is the world's second largest, after China.
- Ready-made garments account for nearly four-fifths of Bangladesh exports.
- The United States is Bangladesh's largest export destination, importing about \$5.6 billion worth of goods, 95 percent of which are garment items.
- The majority of Bangladesh's 4 million garment workers are women.
- More than 5,000 garment factories operate in Bangladesh.
- The Tazreen Fashions Ltd. factory fire struck on November 24, 2012.
- 112 garment workers—most of them young women—were killed because exit doors and stairwells were locked.
- Hundreds of people were injured—many of them losing limbs, more of them severely traumatized.
- In the three years since the Tazreen fire, some 34 workers have died in garment factory fire incidents in Bangladesh—and at least 985 people have been injured in 91 fire incidents.
- Fewer than 3 percent of the 5,000 garment factories in Bangladesh have a union
- The Bangladesh government is increasingly allowing fewer workers to form organizations to represent them. This year, the government rejected more than 50 applications to form such organizations—while only 60 applications were successful.
- Last year, 273 unions applied for registration and the government rejected 66.
- Women comprise half of elected factory-level union leaders in independently organized unions.
- Despite garment workers' desire to join a union, they increasingly face barriers to do so, including employer intimidation, threatened or actual physical violence, loss of jobs and government-imposed barriers to registration. The government also is often unwilling to penalize employers for unfair labor practices.