

## Launching of Call for Justice for Aminul Islam

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June 8, 2012—A program titled “Launching of Call for Justice for Aminul Islam” was held June 7, 2012, at the National Press Club, Dhaka. The program was organized by the Committee for Justice for Aminul Islam (CJAI), which is formed by the family, colleagues of Aminul Islam and staff of the Solidarity Center, who worked for a long time with Aminul Islam for the cause of ready-made garment (RMG) and export-processing zone (EPZ) workers.

Family members of Aminul Islam, leaders from different trade union federations, both national and RMG, and representatives from human rights organizations, buyers, diplomats (including from USA), USAID and ILO were present in the programs.

Aminul Islam, a trade union organizer and president of the Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers' Federation (BGIWF)'s Savar and Asulia regional committee was found dead from severe torture and beatings on April 5, 2012. Aminul Islam was a well respected labor leader amongst the garment workers in the Savar-Ashulia area RMG factories and in the EPZ.

Although Aminul Islam was not a national figure in the labour movement in Bangladesh, the death shocked the people all over the country and abroad. The participants in the program called on the government of Bangladesh for a comprehensive and impartial investigation into the torture and murder of Aminul Islam and prosecution of those ultimately responsible for his death, regardless of their position and status. They expressed fear that if Aminul's case cannot be resolved, the union leaders working for the workers would remain at risk of facing the same fate as of Aminul's. On the other hand, the speakers noted that country's export of garments may suffer severely if the murderer cannot be detected in a proper investigation soon.

The CJAI informed the participants that government of Bangladesh had given its emphasis to the investigation and CJAI believed that the law enforcing agencies were also investigating the murder with utmost sincerity. But it has been almost two months since the murder of Aminul Islam, and no visible or measurable progress is seen in the investigation. CJAI informed the participants that it would continue to focus on the ongoing investigation of the law enforcement agencies of the county.

CJAI urged the participants to add their and their organization's name to be on record as a supporter of the call for justice and the CJAI, participate in update events organized by CJAI and give financial donations that will go to the work of CJAI in the pursuit for justice as well as for the welfare of Aminul's family.

The participants in the program expressing their solidarity also signed the petition of "call for justice for Aminul Islam," which will be sent to the Bangladesh government, urging expeditious resolution of Aminul's case.