



## **RANA PLAZA: JUSTICE DELAYED**

### **The second anniversary of the deadly factory collapse**

- Bangladesh's \$24 billion garment industry is the world's second largest, after China.
- Some 80 percent of Bangladesh's garment exports are destined for the United States and Europe.
- The majority of Bangladesh's 4 million garment workers are women.
- More than 5,000 garment factories operate in Bangladesh.
- The Rana Plaza building, which housed five garment factories outside Dhaka, Bangladesh, collapsed April 24, 2013.
- 1,134 garment workers—most of them young women—were killed when the multistory building pancaked on top of them.
- Approximately 2,500 people were injured—many of them losing limbs, more of them severely traumatized.
- In the two years since the deadly Tazreen Fashions Ltd., fire in November 2012, at least 31 workers have died in garment factory fire incidents in Bangladesh—and more than 900 people have been injured.
- International labor organizations and prominent retailers created a \$30 million compensation fund in 2013 to aid families of workers killed and injured at Rana Plaza. According to the International Labor Organization, 75 percent of those who sought compensation have received something, but to date, 5,000 people have received only 40 percent of the money due them. Further payments have been delayed because clothing brands have failed to pay the \$9 million needed to cover claims.
- Since the Rana Plaza disaster, more than 2,500 garment factories have been inspected, most under the auspices of the two private programs that include brands and retailers.
- Fewer than 3 percent of the 5,000 garment factories in Bangladesh have a union. Since Rana Plaza, workers have registered more than 300 unions and have seen more than 15 new collective bargaining agreements signed.
- 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.
- More than 40 newly registered trade unions have dissolved or gone dormant, and at least 42 factories have closed in the last two years.
- In the past two years, the Bangladeshi government has rejected approximately 100 union registration applications.
- Government rejections of unions that applied for registration increased from 19 percent in 2013 to 56 percent so far in 2015.