

## **RESOLUTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE BANGLADESH GARMENT AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS FEDERATION (BGIWF)**

WHEREAS, BGIWF union organizer Shahidul Islam was tragically and brutally murdered on June 25, 2023 following wage negotiations at the Prince Jacquard Sweater Ltd. in Gazipur, Bangladesh;

WHEREAS, following the factory management of the Prince Jacquard Sweater Ltd.'s failure to pay two months wages and legally required bonus to factory workers ahead of the Eid al-Adha holiday, Shahidul Islam visited the factory on the evening of his death to engage in productive industrial relations and peacefully resolve a wage-related dispute;

WHEREAS, following discussions with factory management, Shahidul and two colleagues were attacked by assailants outside the factory gates and severely beaten, resulting in Shahidul's death and the hospitalization of two other workers;

WHEREAS, the attack of Shahidul and his colleagues comes 11 years after the brutal murder of Aminul Islam, another prominent leader of BGIWF, demonstrating a pattern of violence against union organizers and workers in the garment sector in Bangladesh;

WHEREAS, trade unionists in Bangladesh are subject to repeated anti-union violence and threats, judicial harassment through the filing of false criminal charges, and mass terminations of union leaders and members, resulting in a hostile environment for labor organizing where workers are unable to exercise their fundamental rights to freedom of association;

BE IT RESOLVED that APALA will:

1. Re-affirm its continuing solidarity with the Bangladeshi labor movement and supports the struggles of Bangladesh workers as they confront continuing repression of fundamental labor rights, including the right to freedom of association; and
2. Work with its Congressional representatives and federal government allies to push for full US Government support in demanding justice for Shahidul Islam and for addressing the underlying anti-union conditions that enabled such an attack to occur, demand the Bangladeshi government to launch a swift and transparent investigation into his murder and bring the perpetrators to justice, and call on the Bangladeshi government to proactively send a message that further violence against trade unionists will not be tolerated; and
3. Advocate to ILO member state governments, that in light of continued serious labor violations in Bangladesh underscored by the murder of Shahidul Islam, and the Government of Bangladesh's lack of substantive progress to address them, member governments should support the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate violations of fundamental labor; and

4. Join allies in the global labor movement to raise funds to provide legal aid and financial support to Shahidul's family, including his wife, also a former union organizer, and two young sons; and
5. Promote the BGIWF struggle on its social media platforms including via hashtags, posts, and/or videos to raise awareness, raise funds, and recruit broad support.

**Submitted by:**

The APALA International Solidarity Committee (Atley Chock)