

November 26, 2012

## **Constant Negligence and Lack of Responsibility regarding workers**

### **STATEMENT**

Odhikar is appalled and dismayed at the news of the death of garment workers due to fire in an Ashulia RMG factory near Dhaka on November 24, 2012. The death toll has already crossed 124 workers. This is not the first time that the workers have died in garment factories. Odhikar has repeatedly raised the alarm about the lack of safe working conditions and inadequate legal means to force the garment owners to comply with the conditions in order to strictly avoid such recurrent horrific accidents.

Odhikar demands an independent investigation of the accident. People responsible for criminal negligence should be identified and punished. The victims should be provided with all necessary medical care and families who lost earning members should be adequately compensated.

It is important to note that the government has formed an Industrial Police Force to control and suppress workers protests for better working conditions. However, such police force de facto act as the private law enforcing agency of garment owners and there is no effective mechanism to protect the workers.



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