**CALL FOR SOLIDARITY**

**Bangladesh** is the largest textile producer in the world. If you wear clothing by brands like Adidas, Gap, Calvin Klein, H&M, Giorgio Armani, Ralph Lauren, Hugo Boss, Nike or Tommy Hilfiger, you’ve most likely worn something made in Bangladesh. The reason, that Bangladesh is such a popular trading partner is mainly one: it’s dirt cheap.

While Bangladesh does have a minimum wage, it only equals about 73 US$ a month - which is not a living wage even considering the lower cost of living. The Garment Workers’ Trade Union Centre (GWTUC), a union representing textile workers, is organising protests and demonstrations since October 23rd, pressuring the wage board to set the minimum wage at 25,000 BDT (228 US$) - still too little, but a step in the right direction.

The wage board’s counter offer was only 12,500 BDT - half of the demand. Instead of taking the struggle of the workers seriously, the government and factory owners, rely on repression, intimidation and violence, attempting to crush the movement.

**Five protesting workers have already been killed** by police and government goons (as of Nov 12th). The union leaders are being threatened with prison. Amidst this turmoil, the GWTUC is asking for solidarity from workers around the world.

Let’s follow this call! Let’s not be lured by the special offers of black friday, that are *only possible on the backs of the exploited labourers* in the factories and sweatshops. Let’s let the brands and chain stores know, that we don’t want to wear clothing produced under these conditions and that they should use their purchasing power to pressure factory owners to pay the minimum wage of 25,000 BDT! We, as fellow workers and consumers, are all part of the game. **Let’s let the workers know that their call for solidarity echoes throughout the world.**

In Bangladesh the minimum wage is decided on by the wage board which is appointed every 5 years by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. This year’s board consists of an independent professor, a district judge, a representative of an employers’ federation, a representative of a trade union federation affiliated with the ruling party, the president of the Bangladesh National Garments Workers Employees League and the president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

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