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GENERAL SECRETARY  
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GENERALSEKRETÄR  
SECRETARIO GENERAL

Sheikh Hasina Wajed  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Gano Bhaban, Sher-e Bangla Nagar  
Dhaka  
Bangladesh

Fax: 880-2-811.32.43

HTUR/JS

10 November 2009

### **Killing of three workers**

Dear Sheikh Hasina Wajed,

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), representing 316 affiliated member organisations, with a total membership of 170 million workers in 158 countries and territories denounces the killing of three workers on 31 October in Tongi near Dhaka airport.

The ITUC has been informed that workers at the Nippon garments factory situated in the Tongi Industrial belt were laid off, without receiving their salary and other benefits for the last month of work.

When the workers saw the dismissal notice at the gate of the factory, they started a protest. The police came to quell the protest and opened fire against the striking workers.

Three workers Tajul Islam, Babul sheikh and Shafiqul Islam were killed and 50 others workers were wounded. They were reportedly receiving treatment at various hospitals including Dhak Medical hospitals.

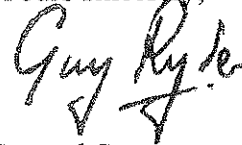
The ITUC supports its affiliates in Bangladesh in their protest against the killings and in their call for justice for the victims.

The government of Bangladesh has ratified ILO Conventions 87 and 98 on the right freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, and must ensure that workers enjoy basic human rights like the right to life, as a prerequisite for the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of association. Your government is thus under an obligation to ensure that workers and trade unions can operate in a climate free from fear.

The ITUC urges you to ensure that an independent investigation into the killings is conducted and that those responsible are held accountable.

I thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Ryder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a stylized "R".

General Secretary