

September 16, 2010

Via mail and email (info@pmo.gov.bd)

Ms. Sheikh Hasina Wazed
Prime Minister of Bangladesh
Prime Minister's Office
Old Sangsad Bhaban
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Bangladesh

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the 54,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers to express our grave concerns regarding the unjust detention of Mr. Aminul Islam, who was held in Bangladesh NSI (National Security Intelligence) custody without any formal complaint on June 16, 2010. I am also writing to urge your government to restore the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS's) status as a non-governmental organization (NGO) by allowing it to keep its registration with the NGO Affairs Bureau (NAB).

It is my understanding that the BCWS and Mr. Islam have been accused of inciting worker unrest. However, BCWS is an internationally-known and well-respected advocate for workers' rights with a strong record of credible research and professionalism.

The actions against BCWS call into question the sincerity of the Bangladeshi government to follow through on its commitments to improve labour rights.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers respectfully calls upon your government to:

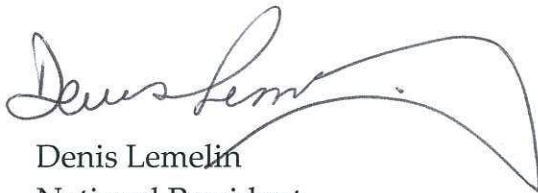
1. Immediately withdraw the cancellation letter of June 3, 2010, and restore the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS NGO registration;
2. Investigate Mr. Islam's detention and torture and hold those individuals responsible accountable and ensure they pay appropriate reparation;
3. Ensure Mr. Islam receives the medical treatment he needs;

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4. Provide Mr. Islam and all other BCWS staff members with assurances of their safety;
5. Instruct the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka to desist from seizing the office and property of BCWS; and
6. Instruct the Manager of the Mercantile Bank to desist from freezing the BCWS bank account.

BCWS is a vital voice for labour rights in Bangladesh. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers is disturbed to see that local efforts to improve conditions for workers are being met with intimidation and repression by the government. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers hopes that you will resolve this situation immediately and recommit yourself to allowing labour rights organizations to operate freely without fear of reprisal in your country.

Yours truly,



Denis Lemelin
National President

cc. MSN

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