

# **Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies**

## **Labour Rights (January-December) 2010: A situational Analysis**

In January-December 2010, at least 703 workers died and 2576 workers injured in workplace related accidents and violence. Among them 68 workers mostly female domestic helps faced torture of their employers, while 37 female workers were sexually violated. 32 workers committed suicide, 52 workers fall sick in workplace due to eating food and 28 workers missing in different accident.

- In (January-December) 2010

- Killed - 703
- Injured - 2576
- Tortured - 68
- Raped - 37
- Kidnapped - 39
- Suicide - 32
- Missing - 28
- Fall sick - 52

Among the death cases at least 454 workers died in workplace related accidents. And among them 43 workers were female. Out of 249 workers, died in violent attacks and criminal offences, 70 workers were female while rest of 179 workers was male.

- Total Killed: 703
- accident : 454
    - male - 411
    - female- 43
  - Violence: 249
    - male- 179
    - female- 70

During this time the 1205 workers injured in accidents 860 were male and 345 were female. 1371 workers were injured in violence 1312 were male and 59 were female.

- Total Injured 2576
- Accident: 1205
    - male - 860
    - Female - 345
  - Violence: 1371
    - male- 1312
    - female- 59

In this time the highest number of workplace related accidental deaths happened in Transport Sector. At least 217 workers died in this sector. Second highest 73 deaths happened in RMG and Construction Sector. 14 cleaners, Fisherman 12, Shoe and Coil Worker 9, Day Labour 4, Brick Kiln 5, Ship Breaking 5, Tannery worker 4, Steel Mill worker 3 and others 26.

Workplace deaths due to accidents: 454

- Transport worker : 217
- Construction : 73
- RMG : 73
- Cleaners : 14
- Fisherman : 12
- Shoe worker : 9
- Coil worker : 9
- Day Labourer : 4
- Brick Kiln : 5
- Ship Breaking : 5
- Tannery worker : 4
- Steel Mill worker : 3
- Others : 26

In this time highest number of 216 workers died in Road Accident (all are Transport worker), 75 workers burnt to death in factory fires, 48 workers died due to electrocution, 25 workers died in fall from height, 21 workers died in mudslide or wall collapses, 15 workers died in heat by falling objects, 12 workers died in manhole suffocation, 10 workers died in explosions, 07 workers died in capsizes and suffocation by poison gas, 5 workers died in entangled engine, attacked by tiger others 08.

Workplace Accidents Types

- Road Accident : 216
- Fire burnt : 75
- Electrocution : 48
- Fall from Height : 25
- Collapse/ Slide : 21
- Heat by falling Objects : 15
- Manhole Suffocation : 12
- Explosion : 10
- Capsize : 07
- Entangled in engine : 05
- suffocation by poison gas : 07
- attacked by tiger : 05
- Others : 08

In this time the highest number of violence related deaths happened in Domestic sector. At least 56 workers died in different types of violence in this sector. Second highest 52 deaths happened in Transport Sector. 43 RMG, Day Labour 19, Security Guard 12, Construction 11, Brick Kiln 4, Ship Breaking 5, Steel Mill worker 5 and others 47.

Workplace deaths due to violence: 249

- Domestic worker : 56
- Transport worker : 52
- Construction : 11
- RMG : 43
- Security Guard : 12
- Day Labourer : 19
- Brick Kiln : 4
- Steel Mill worker : 5
- Others : 47

Besides this, at least 1336 workers injured in this time most of in police actions and clash against workers who demonstrated in the streets or factory level. 1549 workers terminated 192 workers arrested. On the other hand TU movement was very active during this year. At least 98 times TU activist moved to ensure workers rights.

- Total Workers upraise : 386**
- Workers' Injured : 1336
  - Killed : 01
  - Terminated : 1549
  - Sued for : 76753
  - Arrested : 187
  - Trade Union Movement : 98

Workers went for at least 386 upraises during this time. Among them at least 169 programmes were staged to press their demands for wage, bonus and dues. 27 programmes were protesting dismissal of workers. 24 programmes were demanding for permanent of job. 17 programmes were to established wage board. 15 upraises of workers happened to protest the torture of workers. 13 programmes were rehabilitation of job, 10 programmes were demanding resign of MD or officer of the factory. 09 times workers took streets on reopen the factory. 07 programmes were compensation of death workers. 06 programmes were closure or lay off and protesting labour laws. 04 upraises happened to protest the killing of workers. 79 other demonstrations happened due to many other causes.

Total Upraise : 386

- To press the demand for Wage and Dues : 169
- Protesting Dismissal of Workers : 27
- For permanent of Job : 24
- For Established Wage Board : 17
- Protesting the torture on workers : 15

- For Rehabilitation of Job : 13
- Resign of MD or Officer : 10
- Reopen Factory : 09
- Protesting Closure or Lay Off : 06
- For Compensation of death workers : 07
- For Amendment of Labour Laws : 06
- Protesting the killing of workers : 04
- Others : 79

In this time RMG workers went on upraise or demonstration at least 175 times. Transport was second in line with 42 incidents while jute workers demonstrated 19 times. Workers in sugar sector were 18, Workers in doc labour were 17 times and coal sector 13 times, textile sector was 12 times, health sector 08 times, tea sector were 05 times, fertilizer sector 04 times and 73 other demonstrations, sit-ins or blockades happened in other sectors.

#### Upraise Sectors

- RMG : 175
- Transport : 42
- Jute : 19
- Sugar : 18
- Doc Labour : 17
- Coal : 13
- Textile : 12
- Health : 08
- Fertilizer : 04
- Tea : 05
- Others : 73

Giving a look into the patterns of such demonstrations the present study has found out that at least 126 of the programmes were mass demonstration, 101 programmes were strike or hunger strike, 47 highway blockade most of happened Dhaka and its nearby industrial areas, 29 times organized press conference, 23 programmes were clash two groups, owner men and police, 12 times submitted memorandum, 11 times ransacked factory and organized human chain, 07 times confined office room or the officers, 05 times abstained from work and discussing meeting, 03 times organized rallies, 06 other cases of such demonstrations could not be specified.

#### Actions:

- Mass Demonstrate : 126
- Strike/Hunger strike : 101
- Blockade Highway : 47
- Press Conference : 29
- Clash two groups/owners men : 23
- Submit memorandum : 12
- Ransack factory : 11
- Human Chain : 11

- Confine officer/office : 07
- Rally : 03
- Abstain from Work : 05
- Discussion Meeting : 05
- Others : 06