

ASICS – Garment Factory Collapse in Cambodia: At Least 3 Dead, 10 Injured and More Unaccounted For

Phnom Penh – 16 May, 2013

Only hours after international brands signed onto the Bangladesh Building and Fire Safety Agreement, a building collapse at Asics supplier, Wing Star Shoes Co. Ltd has claimed the lives of at least 3 Cambodian garment workers, injured at least 10 and left many more unaccounted for.

The Community Legal Education Center (CLEC) would like to send its utmost condolences to the families of deceased workers at Wing Star Shoes Co. Ltd and condemn the absolute lack of responsibility that now typifies the Asian garment industry.

According to shipping data, Asics has received 148,641 lbs of product from Wing Star Shoes Co. Ltd since October of last year. Asics claim they “respect the fundamental human rights of all persons in all of [their] corporate activities,” yet workers at Wing Star Shoes Co. Ltd were not guaranteed their most fundamental right of all – their right to life.

We bring to the attention of Asics, the Garment Manufacturers’ Association of Cambodia and the Royal Cambodian government that you are obliged to act immediately.

We demand that Asics take responsibility for their failure to ensure the safety workers within their supply chain; to immediately send a representative to Cambodia and ensure medical treatment and compensation for the victims; and to ensure the safety of the remaining workers in this factory and others.

We demand that the Garment Manufacturers’ Association of Cambodia and the Royal Cambodian government conduct a full and transparent investigation into this incident and ensure occupational health and safety within all Cambodian garment factories.

International brands now make comparisons between the region’s garment industries based upon the amount of lives lost therein. This is absolutely unconscionable and will not be tolerated. We demand immediate action.

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