# RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE FOR GARMENT WORKERS NOW!





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# CALL FOR SOLIDARITY

**Bangladesh** is the second largest textile producer in the world. You too have most likely worn something made there.

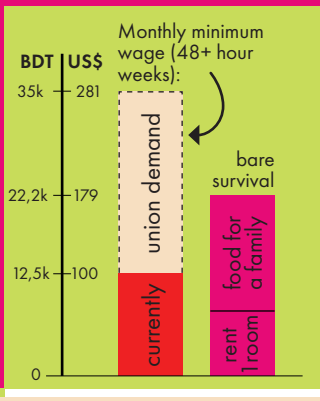
The reason, that Bangladesh is such a popular trading partner is mainly one: It's dirt cheap.

While Bangladesh does have a minimum wage, it only equals about **100 US$ a month** - not a living wage especially considering the rising cost of living. The Garment Workers' Trade Union Centre (GWTUC), a union representing textile workers, is organising protests and strikes since October 31st, pressuring the wage board to set the minimum wage at 35,000 BDT (281 US$) - which in regards to the workload is still somewhat of a joke.

**At one point, the workers of about 670 factories had seized to work entirely,** but 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.**

Again this year, on November 3rd **a worker died of his injuries** inflicted during a peaceful protest a day before. There, **even more were wounded, including the general secretary of the GWTUC who remains in jail to this day** (Nov 19) on fabricated charges. Dozens of workers have been arrested and shot at with teargas and water cannons.

Amidst this turmoil, the GWTUC is asking for solidarity from workers around the world. Let's follow this call! Let's not be tricked by the social washing campaigns propagated by retailing companies to keep raking in profits **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 35,000 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.**




Maybe you've heard of the recent **gas explosion** at the factory owned by Pretty Group, killing 9 & wounding 35 more. They are producing garments for brands such as: **C&A, ZARA, Bestseller, Next, Tesco, Celio, River Island, GAP, JC Penney, Macy's, Uniqlo, Cotton On, Country Road, Retail Apparel Group (RAG)**

Learn about the struggle of textile workers in Bangladesh here:

globalmayday.net/wage-struggle-bangladesh

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. The 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 nationalist party, the general secretary of the Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation and the director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

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GWTUC

**#globalisethefight**
**#1world1struggle**


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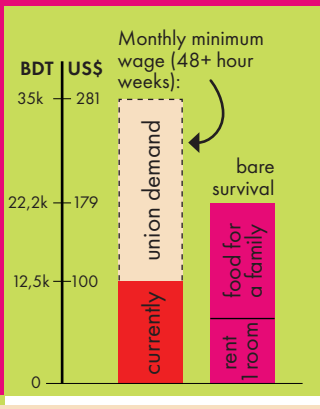

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