

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2010

The Honorable Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister's Office
Old Sangsad Bhaban
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Bangladesh

Re: The arrest of Kalpona Akter and Babul Akhter

Dear Prime Minister:

We are extremely concerned about the recent arrests on August 12, 2010 of Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS) leaders Kalpona Akter and Babul Akhter.

On July 30th, the announcement of an unsatisfactory wage increase in the garment sector caused workers to escalate their protests. It is our understanding that warrants were carried out on August 12, 2010 for the arrest of Ms. Akter and Mr. Akhter. The charges in these warrants remain unclear.

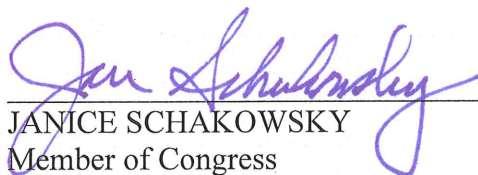
BCWS leaders have expressed to us and to others a fear for their physical safety, as well as the safety of their family members and colleagues. We request that the welfare and rights of these individuals be respected, and that you report to us on their current location, condition and the charges filed against them.

Lastly, as the unrest in the garment sector continues, we urge the government to work towards a peaceful resolution of this matter.

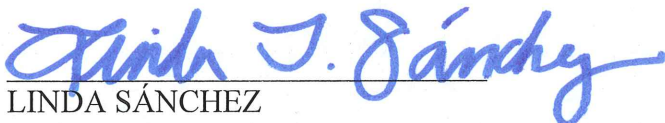
Sincerely,



PHIL HARE
Member of Congress



JANICE SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



LINDA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress