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**REMARKS  
BY  
U.S. AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA  
AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY,  
FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY COURSE**

**BRAC Center Inn, Mohakhali, Dhaka  
July 10, 2014**

Mikail Shipar, Secretary, Ministry of Labor and Employment

Ali Ahmed Khan, Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defense

Alonzo Suson, Country Program Director, Solidarity Center

Selim Newaz Bhuiyan, Fire Safety Consultant, Solidarity Center

Rukshana Yasmin Arzoo, Senior Program Officer, Solidarity Center

Union leaders, owners, buyers, ILO representatives, and ...

... Most especially, the graduates of this fire and building safety course ...

Asalaamu 'mlaikum, nameskar, ramadan karim, and good afternoon

You ... you, the factory-level union leaders and union federation staff members who are graduating from this safety course ...

...you today are making history.

Bangladesh today is making history.

You and the over 250 others who will participate in the next 13 offerings of this course are engines of change ...

...you are engines of transformation.

With the knowledge and skills that you learned in this course, you are key to transforming Bangladesh's apparel industry...

... Transforming the industry to ensure that there is never again another Rana Plaza building collapse ... never again another Tazreen Fashions fire disaster.

You have learned so much.

We have just heard about the many things you learned in this course.

I think the greatest lesson that you take away from this course is how best to ensure that the workers' voice is heard.

Developing strong, effective Health and Safety Committees in your respective workplaces is critically important.

These committees ... under your leadership ... will give workers a credible voice in regard to the safety conditions of their factories.

I believe workers need a strong, united, clear voice before they can effectively partner with supervisors and owners to ensure safe working conditions.

I believe the bottom-line message of this course ...

...the bottom line message of transforming the apparel sector to full compliance with agreed standards ...

... is that safe factories are best assured when workers with a united voice partner with the supervisors and owners to ensure workplace safety.

This partnership ... workers, supervisors, owners ... this is the critical piece to transforming the apparel sector.

Thanks to your success in this course, workers in your factories will now have a stronger voice.

Thanks to your success in this course, workers in your factories will be stronger partners with management to make factories safe ... and to keep them safe.

I said at the beginning of my remarks that you, the graduates, are today making history, that Bangladesh today is making history.

This is so true.

Your success in making workers strong partners with factory management on ensuring workplace safety will transform the industry.

The success of this partnership of workers and management will help make Brand Bangladesh a Premium Brand, a Preferred Brand in the global apparel marketplace.

The success of this partnership will make Brand Bangladesh the number one apparel brand in the world.

You are indeed making history today.

Congratulations!

Thank you.

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*\*As prepared for delivery*