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Honorable Prime Minister Khaleda Zia  
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Madrid, April 24, 2006

Dear Prime Minister Khaleda Zia,

On behalf of the Clean Clothes Campaign, I am writing to urge your government to take immediate measures to ensure the safety of Roy Ramesh, trade union leader and Jatiya Sramik League (JSL) general secretary, general secretary of the Bangladesh National Council (BNC) for Textile, Garment and Leather Workers, and executive committee member of Textile Workers for Asian Regional Organisation (TWARO).

We have been informed that on the evening of April 14, 2006, Ramesh was attacked near Dhanmondi Police Box in Dhaka city by an armed gang when returning home. Severely injured, he managed to escape to safety.

We also have heard that the attack came just days after a fundamentalist group renewed its threats against the trade unionist. Two years ago, his name appeared on a 'hit list' of people the terrorist group said would be killed. At the time he also received threats over the phone.

We request the Bangladesh government to:

Provide protection to Roy Ramesh and make sure that he can safely perform his tasks as a trade union leader

Conduct an urgent investigation to identify those who are responsible for the attack.

For your information, the CCC is an international network that focuses on labor rights in the global garment industry, with offices in 11 European countries and partners in many Asian countries. In Europe alone, over 250 consumer, labor, development and women's organizations are members of the CCC. Trade union rights in the Bangladesh garment sector is a topic that we have worked on for more than a decade.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this critically important matter. Please inform us of the action that you take.

Yours sincerely,

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