

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10118-3299
Tel: 212-290-4700
Fax: 212-736-1300
Fax: 917-591-3452

ASIA DIVISION

Brad Adams, *Executive Director*
Kanae Doi, *Japan Director*
Meenakshi Ganguly, *South Asia Director*
Phelim Kine, *Deputy Director*
Elaine Pearson, *Australia Director*
Sophie Richardson, *China Director*
Phil Robertson, *Deputy Director*
John Sifton, *Advocacy Director*
Ali Dayan Hasan, *Pakistan Director*
Mickey Spiegel, *Special Advisor*
Heather Barr, *Senior Researcher*
Nicholas Bequelin, *Senior Researcher*
David Mathieson, *Senior Researcher*
Sunai Phasuk, *Senior Researcher*
Tejshree Thapa, *Senior Researcher*
Jayshree Bajoria, *Researcher*
Carlos H. Conde, *Researcher*
Andreas Harsono, *Researcher*
Maya Wang, *Researcher*
Shaivalini Parmar, *Senior Associate*
Riyo Yoshioka, *Senior Associate*
Julia Bleckner, *Associate*
Yuko Narushima, *Associate*
Storm Tiv, *Associate*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

David Lakhdhir, *Chair*
Orville Schell, *Vice Chair*
Maureen Aung-Thwin
Edward J. Baker
Robbie Barnett
Robert L. Bernstein
Jagdish Bhagwati
Jerome Cohen
John Despres
Jose Manuel Diokno
Mallika Dutt
Kek Galabru
Merle Goldman
Jonathan Hecht
Paul Hoffman
Sharon Hom
Rounaq Jahan
Ayesha Jalal
Robert James
Joanne Leedom-Ackerman
Perry Link
Kimberly Marteau-Emerson
Krishen Mehta
Andrew J. Nathan
Yuri Orlov
Xiao Qiang
Bruce Rabb
Balakrishnan Rajagopal
Ahmed Rashid
Victoria Riskin
Barnett Rubin
James Scott
Mark Sidel
Eric Stover
Ko-Yung Tung
Francisc Vendrell
Tuong Vu

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Kenneth Roth, *Executive Director*
Michele Alexander, *Deputy Executive Director, Development and Global Initiatives*
Carroll Bogert, *Deputy Executive Director, External Relations*
Jan Egeland, *Deputy Executive Director, Europe*
Iain Levine, *Deputy Executive Director, Program*
Chuck Lustig, *Deputy Executive Director, Operations*
Walid Ayoub, *Information Technology Director*
Emma Daly, *Communications Director*
Barbara Guglielmo, *Finance and Administration Director*
Peggy Hicks, *Global Advocacy Director*
Babatunde Olujobi, *Deputy Program Director*
Dinah Pokempner, *General Counsel*
Tom Porteous, *Deputy Program Director*
James Ross, *Legal & Policy Director*
Joe Saunders, *Deputy Program Director*

AMSTERDAM • BEIRUT • BERLIN • BRUSSELS • CHICAGO • GENEVA • JOHANNESBURG • LONDON • LOS ANGELES • MOSCOW • NAIROBI • NEW YORK • PARIS • SAN FRANCISCO • TOKYO • TORONTO • WASHINGTON

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

www.hrw.org

November 19, 2013

Edward Lampert, CEO

Sears/Kmart

333 Beverly Road

Hoffman Estates, IL 60179

Dear Mr. Edward Lampert,

Re: Compensation for victims of Tazreen factory fire

Human Rights Watch is one of the leading independent organizations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights. For 30 years, we have worked in over 90 countries to bring greater justice and security to people around the world and are recognized as an honest and informed interlocutor. We have worked on various issues linked to the protection of human rights in Bangladesh for over two decades.

We are currently doing research on the status of workers who were injured and family members of those who died due to the November 24, 2012 fire at the Tazreen Fashions factory in Bangladesh, which killed at least 112 people. It is our goal to undertake thorough and objective research. To that end, we are seeking the views of your company.

We understand that you were one of Tazreen's customers. We would welcome clarification about your business relationship with Tazreen Fashions of Bangladesh.

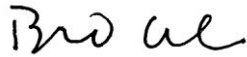
We understand that your company is one of those which sourced garments from Tazreen, but to date we have not been able to confirm whether your company has contributed to the compensation fund. Can you elaborate on any contributions to the compensation fund?

The International Labor Organization and the IndustriALL Global Union have expressed their willingness to facilitate a system for compensating the Tazreen victims. Have you been contacted by those parties and do you plan to participate?

Can you also please elaborate on whether your company or other representatives in Bangladesh conducted any safety inspections of the factory on your behalf? If so, what did these inspections reveal? If you did not, why not?

We would welcome your responses by November 26, 2013 so that we are able to include your comments in our findings.

Thanking you in advance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad Adams
Asia director, Human Rights Watch