Civil Society Organisations and Trade Unions call on Urgent Action to Protect Garment Workers' Safety in Cambodia

















































































Civil Society Organisations and Trade Union Federations call on Urgent Action to Protect Garment Workers' Safety in Cambodia

We, the undersigned organizations, express our deep concern over the tragic transport accidents on 23 May 2026 in Kampong Chhnang and Svay Rieng provinces. According to the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, a total of **93 garment workers were affected**, including **14 workers killed and 79 injured**, many of them women.

These devastating incidents are not isolated events, but part of a persistent pattern of unsafe and inadequate transportation conditions faced by garment workers across Cambodia.

The official data highlights the severity of the crisis. In Kampong Chhnang alone, **53 workers were involved**, with **9 deaths and 44 injuries**. In Svay Rieng, **40 workers were affected**, including **5 fatalities and 35 injured**. These figures underscore the urgent need for systemic reforms to prevent further tragedies.

Everyday, thousands of workers travel to and from factories in overcrowded vehicles not designed for passenger transport. Workers are often forced to stand or sit in unsafe conditions, without seatbelts or basic protections, exposing them to serious risks in the event of accidents.

"These tragic accidents are a preventable loss of life. Garment workers should not have to risk their safety simply to reach their workplace urgent, systemic action is needed now." said , Tharo Khun, Programme Manager of Center of Alliance of Labor and Human Rights (CENTRAL).

We acknowledge the government's immediate response in providing medical support and compensation in accordance with national social security mechanisms. However, emergency response alone is not sufficient. Preventing future loss of life requires addressing the root causes of unsafe transportation.

We therefore call on:

The Government of Cambodia

To strengthen and rigorously enforce regulations on worker transportation, including prohibiting unsafe vehicles, establishing clear safety standards, and ensuring regular inspection and accountability. Increased public investment in safe and accessible transportation systems for workers is essential.

Employers and Employers' Associations

To take responsibility for ensuring that all workers have access to safe, reliable, and dignified transportation. This includes investing in properly equipped vehicles, engaging licensed providers, and integrating transportation safety into workplace obligations.

Global Brands and Buyers

To recognize their responsibility in addressing systemic risks within their supply chains. Brands must provide sufficient financial support and stable sourcing commitments to enable factories to invest in safe transportation and ensure that worker safety on and off site is a non-negotiable standard.

Worker safety must extend beyond factory gates. **No worker should risk injury or death simply to get to work.** The loss of 14 lives is a tragic reminder that inaction has consequences. Preventing further tragedies requires shared responsibility, coordinated efforts, and meaningful investment from all stakeholders.We stand ready to engage constructively to ensure safe, dignified working and commuting conditions for all garment workers in Cambodia.