Sample article – Bangladesh

Six years after the Bangladesh accident- Have things really changed?

On April 24 2013 a factory building in Bangladesh crashed. It was mainly used by the textile industry but also included a bank and several shops. 1136 people died in the accident and more than 2000 were injured. The day before there could already be seen cracks in the wall but people were forced to continue working.

The working conditions in general were bad in the textile industry. Low wages, too long working days, hardly any free time, the unprotected usage of chemicals and a lack in fire protection regulations were just some problems.

Now the question rises whether things have changed in Bangladesh since then?

After the accident many affected companies paid into a fund and more than 30 million US$ were collected and paid to 2800 affected people.
Today all the owners of textile companies are forced to take care of certain security- and health standards which are regularly controlled.
More than 200 companies have signed a contract on building- and fire security which affects 1000 factories and 2 million workers.
39 factories had to close after an inspection and 38 had to close at least parts.
200 inspectors were trained to control security standards and 800,000 were trained on health at work. Another 2700 people were educated to become unionists.
Also the wages were increased but they are still at a very low level compared to other branches. A sewer today only earns about 60€ per month.

All in all …