

PRGMEA Press Release

The Management and members of Pakistan Readymade Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA) offer their heartfelt condolences and regrets to families of all the people who lost their lives in the terrible incident on 11/9/2012. We pray that God gives the families of this tragedy the strength to bear this immense loss. To those injured we pray for their speedy recovery. We also request that the government conduct a fair and impartial investigation into this tragedy and take the culprits to task, may it be the owners of the factory, the governments agencies, terrorists, bhatta mafia, etc. as is currently being conjectured in the media. Also, measures should be put in place that such an incident never occurs again. We request the government to form a public/private committee to examine how such incidences can be avoided in the future and a policy should be formulated on their recommendations and implemented in letter and spirit.

We would also like to point out here that most of the garment factories in the country are involved in the export of garments and are compliant with regards to social and safety standards practiced not only in Pakistan but around the world. They are audited regularly by international inspectors, local agents, as well as local government departments. In fact international buyers do not place orders with the garment factories until they are certified. It is hard to believe incident of such catastrophe has occurred after going through all these Audits. The Garment Industry exports about US\$. 4.00 Billion and employs 40% of the people employed in the textile sector. Thus it is a major employer of people and contributes substantially to the government exchequer. In view of the above, we request all the concerned government departments, media and general public to refrain from unnecessary conjecturing and the blame game, as this will be extremely detrimental for the country exports and government's image internationally. Let the commissions' finding be known and then the necessary course of action can be taken.