

July 3, 2023

Jon Hancock
Chief Executive Officer
Sedex

via email: [REDACTED]@sedex.com

CC: Allison Hudson, [REDACTED]@sedex.com; Olivia Thomson,
[REDACTED]@sedex.com



HRW.org

Re: Sedex SMETA audits of Price Jacquard Sweater Ltd.

Dear Mr. Hancock:

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to request copies of all Sedex SMETA audit reports for Prince Jacquard Sweater Ltd. since the factory was started in 2017. The factory's publicly available profile suggests that it undergoes audits using Sedex's systems.¹ As you may know from news reports, workers from Prince Jacquard Sweater Ltd. have a dispute related to unpaid wages.² Shahidul Islam, the Gazipur president from the Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers Federation (BGIWF) was assisting workers resolve a wage dispute with the garment factory management on June 25. As he was leaving the factory, some assailants beat him to death.³

Sedex's SMETA audit uses the Ethical Trading Initiative's base code. The SMETA reports carry sections related to freedom of association, management systems, and living wages and benefits. Human Rights Watch is interested in looking at the history of the audit reports of this factory to better understand what was detected, how they improved, and what precipitated the unpaid wage dispute.

We would appreciate receiving copies of all relevant SMETA audit reports by July 10, 2023. Sedex's response, including these reports may be reflected in forthcoming Human Rights Watch publications.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]
Aruna Kashyap
Associate Director, Economic Justice and Rights Division

¹ <https://ppp-bd.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Prince-Jacquard-Factory-Profile1.pdf>, p. 17.

² See for example, Redwan Ahmed, "Bangladeshi labour leader beaten to death while trying to resolve dispute," *The Guardian*, June 28, 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/jun/28/shahidul-islam-bangladeshi-labour-leader-shahidul-islam-beaten-to-death-wages-dispute> (accessed July 3, 2023).

³ Ibid.