

Faisalabad: A total victory for power looms workers

Thursday 29 July 2010, by [TARIQ Farooq](#) (Date first published: 29 July 2010).

Dear all,

This is to inform you that Faisalabad power looms workers strike is over. It ended with a complete victory. The Commissioner of Faisalabad Mr. Tahir Hussain announced at the rally that all demands of the workers will be met. He said that we have received the notification of 17 percent rates increase for all the workers late last night and that will be implemented in its full spirit. The arrested four leaders case will be withdrawn after an initial inquiry in consultation with Labour Qaumi Movement leadership.

This was after over 25000 workers marched to the city center and picketed the office of the Commissioner. Today, workers marched over 20 kilometers by foot and it was a total peaceful manifestation. We had made it clear earlier to all the workers as well that any one involved in any violent incident will be kicked out of the organisation. The bosses were too depressed to do any provocation. Workers marched despite a heavy rain. At one point, the police tried to block the workers marching towards the commissioner office. Workers broke the blockade and went on marching towards the office. All roads leading to Commissioner officer were blocked by police and every where there were countless heads of power looms workers.

It was one of the largest gathering that labour Qaumi Movement had mobilized in support of the strike.

Here in Lahore, National Trade Union Federation had organised a protest camp in front of Punjab Assembly building where scores of trade union activists turned up to show solidarity with the striking workers. Here, I was asked by LQM leadership to speak to the workers in Faisalabad by telephone. I could hear the thunder strom slogans of the workers in favour of Labour Party Pakistan and National Trade Union Federation. Yousaf Baluch, chairperson NTUF have thanked all the national and international support for the strike that paved the way for a complete victory of the working class in Faisalabad. over 250,000 workers rates will be increased by 17 percent as a result of this 9 days strike. Four workers leaders are in jail on false charges of violence.

Thank you all, here is at one good news from Pakistan.

Farooq Tariq

Faisalabad Strike update

July 29, 2010

Dear all,

Today thousands of power looms workers are taking part in a rally in Faisalabad on 9th day of the strike. over 250,000 workers are participating in the strike. All the factories are closed. There is a split among the bosses. Some factories have been opened after Labour Qaumi Movement agreed with the owners proposal that they will raise 17 percent increase in the rates of the workers. So a partial victory is already in sight. Yesterday, over 5000 participated in a public meeting by the workers to press for their demands.

National Trade Union Federation has announced to set up a protest camp in Lahore in front of Punjab Assembly today at 2pm. In half an hour, we would be joining this camp that will be there till 6pm.

Please find enclosed some pictures of a public meeting in Saddar area of Lahore on 27th July where four of us participated from Lahore including Qalandar Bukhsh Memon, editir Naked Punch, Maqsood Mujahid member federal executive committee LPP and my self.

Farooq Tariq



Faisalabad power looms workers
