

Baldia factory fire: German clothes discounter Kik to be sued

Six years after Baldia factory fire in Karachi that killed more than 250 people, German clothes discounter Kik faces a lawsuit brought by one survivor of the fire and three relatives. The four plaintiffs are demanding 30,000 euros (34,000 dollars) each in compensation from Kik, the main client of the factory at the time of the fire. The trial is set to begin Thursday at a court in the city of Dortmund.

The plaintiffs accuse Kik of being jointly responsible for the lack of sufficient fire protection safeguards at the factory, a charge rejected by the clothes retailer, which believes the case will be thrown out because of an expired statute of limitations.

The plaintiffs want to make a German company liable for an accident at a foreign supplier for the first time. Human rights organizations the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) and Medico International are supporting the lawsuit.

On September 11, 2012, more than 250 people were killed and several dozen workers injured, some of them seriously, in the fire at Ali Enterprises in Karachi. Kik has already provided more than 6 million dollars for those affected.

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