

Urgent Appeal to UN Pacific Ambassadors - Fiji Coup d'état (New York, 7 December 2006)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gina Torry, Coordinator
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Dear Ambassador,

The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, a coalition of NGOs working for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325, expresses its alarm at the December 5th coup d'état in Fiji.

As a leader in the Pacific Region, we urge you to ensure that the concerns and recommendations of Fiji's civil society, especially women and women's groups, are included in attempts to diffuse this crisis and to restore democratic processes.

Women and women's groups in Fiji and in the Pacific Island Region have played an active, vital role in the building and maintenance of peace, democracy and human rights. Their experiences and resources must be urgently called upon and utilized, as called for in Security Council resolution 1325, which recognizes *'the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and...the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.'*

The NGO Working Group joins Fiji women's NGOs and civil society in urgently calling on decision-makers to:

- Insist that the rule of law, lawful democratic processes and institutions and the constitution be respected, including a demand for an immediate end to the military coup d'état and a return to legitimate rule;
- Establish a binding Commission of Truth, Justice and Resolution in Fiji under the Commission of Inquiry Act, with powers to obtain all relevant evidence;
- Call for a peaceful reconciliation of differences within the constitutional framework, exploring all domestic and democratic means of resolving the conflict;
- Request the United Nations, Member States and the Secretary-General to support national and regional efforts to overcome the crisis through dialogue;

Attached to this letter are the names and contact details of civil society leaders in Fiji with extensive peacebuilding experience. We encourage decision-makers to consult with these leaders in order to effectively resolve the current crisis and to prevent any further escalation of conflict.

Sincerely yours,

Gina Torry, Coordinator

Signed Members of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security

Boston Consortium on Gender, Security and
Human Rights
Hague Appeal for Peace
Femmes Africa Solidarité
United Methodists Women's Division

International Women's Tribune Centre
Women's Action for New Directions
Women's Environment and Development
Organization Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom

List of Recommended Women Peacebuilders and NGOs in Fiji

Catholic Women's League Fiji - World Union of Catholic

Ms. Susana Evening (MOF)

Women's League International Board member and member
of Soqosoqo Vakamarama I Taukei (indigenous women's network)

Email: susanaevening@connect.com.fj

FemLinkPacific

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Coordinator

femLINKpacific : Media Initiatives for Women

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Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

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Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Virisila Buadromo, Coordinator

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Fax: (679) 313-466

Email: fwrp@is.com.fj or fwrp@rrrt.org.fj

Pacific Centre for Public Integrity (PCPI)

Suliana Siwatibau, Chairperson

Suva, Fiji

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