



Int Dept/Keth Thapper/gp

DATE
2011-05-11
YOUR DATE

OUR REFERENCE

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Mr. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, President of the
Republic of Fiji
Office of the President
SUVA
Fiji

Concern for the trade union rights in Fiji.

Dear Mr. President,

I write today as President of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation, an affiliate of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which represents more than 175 million workers through its 305 affiliates in 151 countries and territories, to raise our concerns about the lack of respect for trade union rights in Fiji.

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), representing 1.6 million members, is very concerned about serious breaches of human rights in Fiji, including the intimidation of trade unionists and interference in trade union affairs. We are aware of instances of harassment and violence used against the leaders of the trade unions, including the Fiji Trade Union Congress, and its General Secretary in February.

As a member of the International Labour Organisation, and a signatory to the conventions on freedom of association and the right to collectively bargain (Convention 87 and 98), your government is bound by its commitments to respect the freedom of unions to carry out their responsibilities on behalf of their members. We call on your government to respect and protect the rights of trade union officials and union members.

We are aware that provisions remain in place that severely restrict trade union freedoms, including freedom of assembly, requiring permits to conduct union meetings and other activities and that give government authorities the power to override industrial processes unilaterally. The intimidation of workers and trade union leaders by military personnel is a

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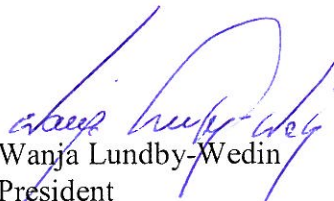
The Swedish Trade Union Confederation

serious and ongoing concern that requires your government's immediate redress.

LO writes to urge you to ensure trade union activities can be undertaken in freedom and that the fundamental rights that underpin their capacity to represent their members are fully realised. We call on you to ensure the safety of trade unionists and ensure the end of the intimidation and harassment of trade unionists.

Yours sincerely,

THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO)


Wanja Lundby-Wedin
President

Cc: Hon Filipe Bole, Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment