

Resolution No. 1

Trade Union Rights in Fiji

The ITUC-AP Regional General Council meeting on 21–22 November 2011 at Singapore;

- EXPRESSES** deep concern at the on-going attacks through unlawful detention of the trade union leaders on charges of sedition and unlawful assembly, etc. and the erosion of, the rights of Fiji workers and trade unions;
- NOTES** the promulgation of draconian Decrees such as Essential National Industries Decree by the Fiji authorities that impact directly and negatively on the democratic rights, interests and the very existence of trade unions in Fiji despite exhortations and protests against them;
- CONDEMNS** the illegal actions by the Government of the day to abrogate the rights of trade unions and the workers of Fiji, particularly in the Public Service and other national or critical industries to further the harassment, assault and detention of Fiji trade union officials;
- ABHORS** the intentions of the regime to deny the workers throughout Fiji their hard fought rights by eroding or removing the protection available in the Employment Relations Promulgation [ERP] 2007;
- RECALLS** the past statements and declarations by the Fiji authorities of their promise to adhere to and uphold the human and trade union rights and the ILO principles of Decent Work via Fiji ERP 2007 and other legislations and ignoring the requests and pleas from various agencies to observe them without fail;
- DENOUNCES** the actions of Fiji Govt officials to mount a propaganda campaign against Fiji unions, their officials and members based on contradictory, false or erroneous facts, while denying the unions their right to valid responses or redress;
- REQUESTS** the national trade union centres around Asia Pacific region to demonstrate and protest at the Fiji Embassies against regimes Dictator who rules with an iron fist;
- GRATEFUL** for the numerous instances of moral, technical and solidarity support from international trade union fraternity (GUFs), including ILO and Amnesty International, and other kindred organizations on the restoration of and the preservation of trade union rights, and cessation of prosecution etc, in Fiji;
- WELCOMES** the planned Fact Finding Mission of ACTU for the second week in December 2011 as the regime had earlier stated in their press release that ACTU should find the facts on the ground;
- FURTHER WELCOMES** the forthcoming visit of the ITUC delegation to be led by its General Secretary to Fiji;
- DEMANDS** that the Govt. of Fiji immediately withdraw all Decrees in particular Decrees 21 & 35 of 2011 and their subsidiary legislation and reverse the effects that have reduced, prejudiced or negated the position of trade unions and workers in Fiji and to return without delay to full normal status all their rights and interests under provisions of ERP 2007, other legislation and international protocols;

CALLS

On the Fiji authorities to remove unequivocally the harmful and offensive sections of the PER (Public Emergency Regulations) and the Media Decree and to discontinue the unjustified criminal charges against union officials based on invalid presumptions which continues to deny the human and trade union rights;

FURTHER DEMANDS THAT hereafter Fiji Government truly abide by all the legitimate Fiji labour laws and the principles of ILO conventions that have been freely and publicly adopted by the nation, including restoration of the Check Off facilities, and take no further steps to erode the rights of Fiji trade unions, their officials and members and to restore the democratic principles and processes in the nation without delay.

STANDS

by their Brothers & Sisters in the Fiji Trade Union Movement during this hour of their dire need.