

## **Resolution No. 17**

### **FIJI**

The Conference strongly condemns the gross violation of trade union rights suffered at the hands of officers of the Fiji military by Felix Anthony, National Secretary of Fiji Trade Union Congress and General Secretary of the Fiji Sugar and General Workers Union.

The Conference is appalled to learn that he was taken to the military office after a meeting with the Prime Minister and was severely beaten by the officials; he was again assaulted after being taken to military barracks. This is a blatant and unacceptable violation of trade union rights. Fiji is a signatory to the ILO conventions on Freedom of Association and the right to collective bargaining.

The Conference deplores that the application of the Fiji Sugar and General Workers Union to hold its annual general meeting was refused. The denial of collective bargaining for the public sector employees is the violation of workers fundamental rights.

The administration of Justice Decree (Decree 9 of 2009) and its amendment Decrees 10 of 2009, 25 of 2009 and 4 of 2010 take away the unions' right to challenge in any court decision of Government or Government owned entities to make any employee redundant or change any terms and conditions of employment, despite a collective agreement remaining in force. These Decrees are in violation of ILO core labour standards which Fiji has ratified and is obligated to respect, the Cotonou Agreement which obligates Fiji to respect the core labour standards and Fiji's own labour laws.

The PER (Public Emergency Regulations) is foisted upon Fiji's people and defies the respected principles of accountability, transparency and good governance; the PER allows the regime to operate as an authoritarian government without democratic scrutiny and make a mockery of rule of law.

The Conference calls upon the government to:

- allow unrestricted trade union activities in the country and stop physical harassment of trade union officials;
- immediate revocation of the PER;
- restoration of the 1997 Constitution as it represents a profound and comprehensive commitment to the principles of equality, non-discrimination, human and trade union rights; and
- hold immediate election so that democracy is restored in the country and set the platform for other issues such as international aid and investor confidence to human and trade union rights.

The Conference calls upon the ITUC-AP to closely monitor developments within Fiji and take up appropriate steps to respect human and trade union rights.