



JTUC-RENGO

JAPANESE TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

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28 June 2019

Hon. Josaia V. Bainimarama

Prime Minister

Republic of Fiji

Email: pmoffice@connect.com.fj

All Charges Against Mr. Felix Anthony Must Be Dropped Without Delay

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO) representing some 7 million members in Japan, we would like to express our serious concern about the arrest and detention of Mr. Felix Anthony, National Secretary of the Fiji Trades Union Congress (FTUC), an affiliate of the International Trade Union Confederation-Asia Pacific (ITUC-AP) in your country.

The JTUC-RENGO is extremely shocked to know that last night on 27 June 2019, Mr. Anthony was again arrested by police from his home in Lautoka for the alleged breach of Section 15 of the Public Order Act 1969 in regard to past investigations.

This morning, we were informed by the FTUC that Mr. Anthony, who is also the President of our organisation, the ITUC-AP, has been charged and now released on bail; and the case will be called on 15 August 2019.

Mr. Prime Minister,

The arrest and detention, even if only briefly, of trade union leaders or members for trade union activities is contrary to the principle of freedom of association. Fiji, as an ILO Member State, has committed to respect, promote and realise the fundamental principles and rights at work. Moreover, by ratifying the ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise in 2002, Fiji explicitly accepted an international legal obligation to respect the principles enshrined in the Convention.

Hon. Josaia V. Bainimarama

28 June 2019

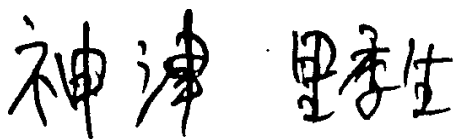
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Therefore, we write to request your immediate interventions:

- (1) To immediately drop all charges against Mr. Felix Anthony;
- (2) To refrain from anti-union practices, including arrests, detentions, violence, intimidation and harassment and interference;
- (3) To ensure that trade union officials are able to exercise in full their rights to freedom of association, freedom of assembly and speech without undue interference by the public authorities;
- (4) To stop any attempts in using the Public Order Act, the Commissioner for Police, including the Criminal Investigation Department, to suppress the rights to freedom of association, freedom of assembly and speech; and
- (5) To expedite the implementation of the JIR (Joint Implementation Report) and the CEACR (Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations) and CAS (Committee on the Application of Standards) rulings.

We anticipate your swift action and quick reply and urge you to exert control on those giving rise to these breaches and acts of violations.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the Japanese characters '神津 里季生' (Kozu Rikio).

Rikio KOZU
President
JTUC-RENGO

Cc. Ms. Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, ITUC
Mr. Shoya Yoshida, General Secretary, ITUC-AP
Mr. Felix Anthony, National Secretary, FTUC, Fiji