

# Security Council Resolution 1325: Civil Society Monitoring Report

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## Fiji

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A Project of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

# Republic of the Fiji Islands

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## Acknowledgement:

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It should be noted that Fiji's recent history of coups and unelected government and the current illegal regime have added a layer of complexity to the issue of women's participation in processes relating to the state. This report draws on experiences of femLINKPACIFIC as well as information in the Fiji NGO CEDAW Shadow report presented to the UN CEDAW Committee in 2010, unless otherwise indicated.

## I. Women, Peace and Security Profile

### A. Nature of the conflict

Fiji gained Independence in 1970. Since 1987, racial and political tensions have been a constant source of instability and international isolation. Fiji has witnessed four coups since its independence, resulting mainly from tensions and power struggles. The most recent coup was in 2006, where the government was ousted by the military due to deadlock between the coup leader Commodore Frank Bainimarama and Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase

#### **Timeline:**

*14 May 1987:* Lt. Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka leads first coup d'état against a newly elected coalition government of Dr. Timoci Bavadra. The protection of indigenous interests is the reason given for the takeover.

*25 September 1987:* Rabuka stages second coup d'état against interim government and council of minister. He takes over as head of state and declares Fiji a republic.

*19 May 2000:* Civil putsch led by George Speight with assistance from elements of the military takes over democratically elected Parliament, holding Fiji's first Indo-Fijian Prime Minister, Mahendra Chaudhry, and government Members of Parliament hostage for eight weeks. Fijian supremacy is the reason given for takeover. Looting of shops in the capital city and some rural Indo-Fijian communities. Military intervenes, declares martial law and following the release of

hostages, arrests Speight and major perpetrators. Military hands power to an interim civilian government.

*5 December 2006:* After months of increasing tension between government and military, the military commander, Commodore “Frank” Bainimarama, ‘assumes’ executive authority and dismisses democratically elected government of Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase. Corruption, racist policies and protection of 2000 coup perpetrators by government are among reasons for takeover. Bainimarama hands back power to the President who appoints him as interim Prime Minister.

On *Friday 10 April*, the President abrogated the Constitution and declared a state of emergency, following the decision of the Fiji Court of Appeal, which declared that the appointment of the Interim Government after the 2006 coup was illegal. The President also promulgated the Public Emergency Regulations 2009, which give military and law enforcement officers broad powers on search and arrest, to impose restrictions on freedom of assembly, and to allow censorship of the media.

## **B. Impact of conflict on women**

It should be noted that Fiji’s recent history of coups and unelected government and the current illegal regime have added a layer of complexity to the issue of women’s participation. Dating back to 1987, following each military or civilian coup, women have responded actively calling for respect for the rule of law and human rights, and these have been acts of peace and non-violence. Women have been detained in 1987 and again in 2006 for their work. Women human rights activists in particular were detained and suffered at the hands of the military following the takeover in 2006.

Women have rallied together, through silent peace vigils which demonstrate our commitment to peace and make the point that we will not be silenced by the acts of the overthrow of any democratic government. We have negotiated at the policy level, as well as by using our women’s networks to communicate with other key political players. Historically women have been at the forefront of creating peaceful solutions in times of political insecurity in Fiji:

*“One of the inspiring actions during the May 2000 crisis was the solidarity of women’s groups in holding together the dreams and hopes of our country. In organizing daily prayer vigils women came together, in a natural response, unified as wives, mothers and daughters of Fiji. During the May 2000 crisis the women of the vigil continued to remind the nation through their language of compassion, solidarity, tenderness, caring and justice. They gave life to our shared values in a time when many social and religious institutions were silent. They communicated a common vision for peace, unity, justice and reconciliation, for our country. It was also an acknowledgement that as mothers, the care-givers, the nurturers, and women can make a valuable contribution to make to improve the well being of her family – her community – her country. But in order for us to move forward, we also need to acknowledge the past”<sup>1</sup>*

Women have documented events, they have spoken out on human rights abuses and they have also been involved in ongoing lobbying and advocacy especially for a formal and mediated dialogue process which would have the support of the UN and the Commonwealth

1 FemLINKPACIFIC Mothers in Dialogue Community Video produced for ECREA, September 2001

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The offices of a prominent women's rights NGO were raided in March 2009, and tape recordings of interviews with victims of human rights abuses were stolen. No other items were taken.

Secretariat. But this is not easy especially as these are new concepts which need to be discussed and understood by the broader movement, by more women. A challenge has been the diverse viewpoints and perspectives within civil society on the styles of engagement with those who now have political power, and also on the process of the development of a People's Charter which now is the mandate of the current political administration, and so we have to better understand each other in order to be able to move forward collectively.

Since December 5, 2006 - June 2007, there was widespread, systemic human rights abuses committed including the detaining of ordinary citizens and human rights dissidents without warrants; restrictions on freedom of movement; expelling foreign journalists without due process; threatening local journalists; torturing/injuring those perceived to have committed mainstream crimes at military check points, military barracks and police stations; targeting people suspected of prostitution and transgender persons as part of "clean up" campaign; arresting/harassing/dismissing members of the public service, police force, Boards or Tribunals who were thought to sympathize with the deposed elected government or other individuals with tenuous links to the deposed elected government; dismissing and charging civil servants and heads of statutory companies without due process; charging various individuals for bogus and trumped up crimes; militarising the civil service in all sectors at senior levels; appointing to Boards and tribunals either military officers or those perceived to support the military; unlawfully suspending the Chief Justice without charges and instigating an unlawful Tribunal of Inquiry against him; appointing to the judiciary and magistracy those perceived to support it; and banning those opposing the regime from travelling outside Fiji, including prominent women's rights defenders. The more vulnerable members of society have been subjected to extreme degrading treatment and torture, including of a sexual nature.

The offices of a prominent women's rights NGO were raided in March 2009, and tape recordings of interviews with victims of human rights abuses were stolen. No other items were taken.

Since September 2000, femLINKPACIFIC has been linking women's voices and issues through a range of media and policy initiatives, connected to critical international women's human rights commitments and conventions including the Beijing Platform of Action, UN Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. We have done this through a range of community media strategies, including the establishment of the regional women's media network on UNSCR 1325 as well as serving as the regional media focal point for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict we are linking Peacewomen in Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Tonga and a team of rural correspondents and focal points as well as young women producers and broadcasters in Fiji, and use of a mobile women's community radio station. Since we discovered UNSCR1325, we have sought to bring the voices of the marginalized and unrepresented into the political arena, particularly from grassroots communities and to link Pacific Peacewomen's notion of peace, to advocate for a peace and security framework defined not just in military security and political terms, but also in terms of human security rooted in a combination of political, economic, personal, community and environmental factors.

While mainstream information and communication is seriously controlled, femLINKPACIFIC's community media initiatives are also subject to current controls. Since April 2009, we are also subjected to censorship by the military. We have to send our broadcast log and community news collation to the Ministry of Information prior to each broadcast. We are also intently monitored when we are on air, and on our monthly "ENews bulletin" and "Community Radio Times."

The following extract from the Report of the Special Rapporteur on VAW on Fiji is instructive:

*A key characteristic of militarisation is the increased power given to the military to violate human rights under the guise of national security. With the emergence of global conflicts, attention to crimes of violence against women is often given low priority whereas more and more attention is given towards national security issues which most of the time infringe on the human rights of people. For example, in Fiji when the military took over the government on December 5, 2006, check points were set up all over the country with heavily armed soldiers monitoring the traffic and movement of people. In many cases, militarisation becomes extremism, allowing no space for any dissent. Women activists who had been vocal about the coup in Fiji, for instance, were taken up to the military camp; some of them forced to run around the ground at the barracks, made to lie face down on the ground and lick the boots of the military officers while other women had their hair cut to humiliate them by getting rid of what is considered one of the elements of beauty for women in Fiji.*

The Report on the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders stated that: *Concerns were expressed that acts of intimidation and harassment, as outlined above, form part of a campaign against human rights defenders in Fiji including Ms Heffernan. Further concerns were expressed that the afore-mentioned events and in particular threats of sexual violence, may be the latest attempt to silence women human rights defenders because of their legitimate activities in monitoring the human rights situation in Fiji. The Special Representative regrets that the Government of Fiji did not respond to any of her communications. She urges the Government to provide her with detailed responses on investigations undertaken on these cases and the measures taken to bring the perpetrators to justice.*

### **C. Relevant policies<sup>2</sup>**

In Fiji, between 2003 and 2004 UNSC Resolution 1325 was incorporated into the national policy commitments to increasing women's participation in decision making in the National Women's Plan of Action as a result of the 2003 establishments of the Women, Peace and Security Fiji Coordinating Committee on 1325 (WPS Fiji CC). This committee was established as part of the UNIFEM Pacific Women, Peace and Security project for Melanesia, following consultation with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and a range of women's groups and NGOs (under the umbrella of the National Council of Women Fiji) that had consistently addressed women and peace issues including submissions to the 2003 National Security and Defence Review.

The WPS CC also worked to enable:

1. Improvement of the availability of data and analysis on the root causes of conflicts, the impact of conflict on women and their role in conflict prevention, and resolution and post-conflict peace-building in four project countries;
2. Strengthening the capacity of women and women's groups in the four programme countries to play a role in conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict peace-building at the national and regional level;
3. Promoting a gender perspective in conflict resolution and peace-building initiatives of governments, regional organizations and mainstream agencies; and
4. Promoting peace, tolerance and reconciliation, linked to economic security, through advocacy in the community and with the general public.

Fiji's Ministry of Women initially chaired the committee<sup>3</sup> that aimed to accelerate the

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from femLINKPACIFIC papers

<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that pending the midterm review of the Ministry of Women all Women's Plan of Action Task Forces were disbanded in 2004/5; The implementation of UNSCR1325 in Fiji subsequently has been through efforts of NGOs such as femLINKPACIFIC to work with national and regional government counterparts

implementation of SCR 1325 by forging a working partnership between the national machinery for women and women's peace-centered NGOs. For practical policy implementation purposes it was agreed that the WPS Fiji project would be implemented within the existing Shared Decision Making Task Force of the National Women's Plan of Action, in order to forge and maintain multi-sectoral partnerships to achieve the overall goals of the project.

So, while Fiji did not develop a national action plan on UNSCR 1325, the provisions of the resolution were incorporated into the national context in two ways:

1. Linked with Women's Action Plan making the linkage with the government's policy commitment of ensuring Gender Equality in Decision Making; and
2. Through the establishment of the Women, Peace and Security Coordinating Committee (WPS Fiji CC) comprised of government and NGO participants to implement the objectives of the WPS Fiji Project.

The WPS Fiji CC worked to promote and enhance the recognition and contribution of women to detect early conflict warning via intervention, resolution strategies and post conflict progress. The committee recognised that peace needs to be long lasting. That sustainable development and peace building must encompass the rights of men and women and boys and girls and that there needs to be equal distribution of development benefits. The Fiji committee also realized that in order to really make a difference we had to listen to and learn from each to overcome the ethnic and communal barriers perpetuated by our conflicts; take into account the range of experiences through research and analysis; and to create community centered programmes that will help build and maintain a culture of peace in Fiji - especially one where women are key decision makers as well.

The WPS Fiji committee was also mindful that we could not just focus on creating activities; they needed to learn more in order to strengthen their lobby with the policy makers. After all women's peace and security issues were entering a new domain.

This was an opportunity, not only to inform ourselves about national security processes, but also to raise critical issues such as:

- The way in which the review process was being conducted
- Who was being consulted
- The issues being identified as security threats
- How international standards and norms, including UN Security Council Resolution 1325, were being incorporated into the process.

We recognized that the reform of the National Security Council, could pave the way for the inclusion of women's civil society representatives with relevant expertise to be involved in helping to redefine and ensure implementation of the new human security agenda, including through representation on national security councils and other local or district/provincial level committees and delegations addressing security issues.

We felt it was critical that the reform process recognise that women's organisations can:

- Provide policy advice on improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness.
- Monitor the implementation of international and regional agreements, as well as national and institutional policies.
- Provide capacity building for oversight bodies on gender issues.
- Identify early warning indicators or security threats and issues facing individuals and communities.

- Facilitate dialogue between local communities and security sector oversight bodies.
- Raise public awareness of how to hold security sector institutions accountable.

The recommendations called for the permanent appointment of the Minister of Women's Affairs on the National Security Council, and representation of women on provincial and district-level security committees:

- The Minister of Women should be included as a member of the National Security Council;
- The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women should be included as a permanent member of the National Security Advisory Committee;
- Women should be effectively and equitably represented on Provincial and District Security Committees;
- Women should be included in the National Security Assessment Unit;
- Gender balance in the decision-making levels of the security forces should be ensured, and efforts made to recruit women into the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.

The submission noted *"the National Security and Defence review provides an opportunity to take corrective measures of existing structures and processes that are out dated."* These structures, according to the submission excludes half of Fiji's population from being involved in security and defence matters and should be dismantled and re-structured. *"Defence and security is the business of men and women, therefore the organizational mechanism that deals with it should ensure that issues of men and women are given the same level of attention."*

While this was an important outcome for this initial partnership there were several challenges in being part of a government-led committee especially one which only included the Department of Women.

The composition of the committee needed to include the Ministries of Home Affairs (responsible for the security sector), as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to strategically incorporate 1325 and gender equality into the national development priorities for peace and security, as well as reconciliation programmes, especially to address the need to overcome the perpetuation of the "victim" mentality or regarding women as subjects of only "social welfare" and micro-enterprise programmes.

So while the establishment of the Fiji WPS project highlighted potential of working in partnership with the Ministry of Women, as a way to influence policy for women through our Peacebuilding efforts, we were challenged to continue the work of the WPS Fiji CC when the Ministry of Women's internal changes resulted in the termination of the task forces of the National Women's Plan of Action, including the WPS CC – this therefore left the onus on members such as femLINKPACIFIC to continue to work on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

**Follow up Action by femLINKPACIFIC – a Regional Platform to assist NAPS**

The 2006 Gender, Conflict Peace and Security Regional Workshop<sup>4</sup> immediately preceding the annual Pacific Islands Forum Regional Security Committee meeting (FSRC) organized by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in collaboration with AusAID, UNDP Pacific Sub-Regional Centre, (PSRC), UNIFEM Pacific,

<sup>4</sup> Nadi, Fiji from 15-17 June 2006



the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), and femLINKPACIFIC, provided an important opportunity to finally place UNSCR1325 onto the inter-government regional security agenda. The workshop culminated with high-level endorsement by participants from all 16 Pacific Island Forum Countries<sup>5</sup>, including Australia and New Zealand, in recognition of the responsibility of Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) member governments, regional organisations and multilateral bodies to uphold women's rights and support their participation in all aspects of conflict prevention, peace negotiations, and post conflict reconstruction.

The regional outcome statement and recommendations emphasized the need to strengthen partnerships between National Women's Machineries, government portfolios which deal with issues of security (e.g. Foreign Affairs, Law Enforcement, Military) women's peace activists, the broader civil society, regional and international organisations and the donor community, to build political will through the development of national action plans to accelerate full implementation of Resolution 1325 and concretize all relevant gender equality and human rights commitments for sustainable peace and security in the region through the development of practical and time bound action plans to assist all stakeholders contribute to the implementation of Resolution 1325.

The regional workshop provided an important platform for the reformulation of a UNSCR 1325 action plan for Fiji by key national stakeholders at the workshop - the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Women, femLINKPACIFIC, Soqosoqo Vakamarama I Taukei, ECREA, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Fiji Police Force.

All stakeholders agreed that there was an important need for the MOFA to assist in further advancing the implementation to date, of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Fiji, which primarily has been through women's NGO initiatives, as it is the key government agency responsible for ensuring compliance of UN Security Council Resolutions. Subsequently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was requested to assist in the reconvening, review and strengthening of the Fiji Women, Peace and Security Coordinating Committee (Fiji WPS CC) including relocating the WPS Fiji CC to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Fiji Government, therefore, was strategically placed, prior to the military coup of December 2006 to develop a National Action Plan particularly to:

- Implement a National Policy on Peacekeeping and Peace Support Operations
- Contribute to the implementation of a legislation on the establishment of security companies and recruitment of security personnel
- Undertake major information and awareness raising programmes of 1325 for all stakeholders including parliamentarians, including translations
- Engage with young men and young women in the development and implementation of conflict prevention programmes

A clear lesson learnt through the process of working both at national and regional level is that for small Pacific Island countries such as Fiji, there is a need to work with UN agencies and other relevant partners to develop a regional strategy which would not only build on and support the work of women, peace and security activists but also serve to assist country level strategies.

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<sup>5</sup> Participants also included representatives from military and law enforcement agencies, and women's NGOs actively involved in the peace and security sector

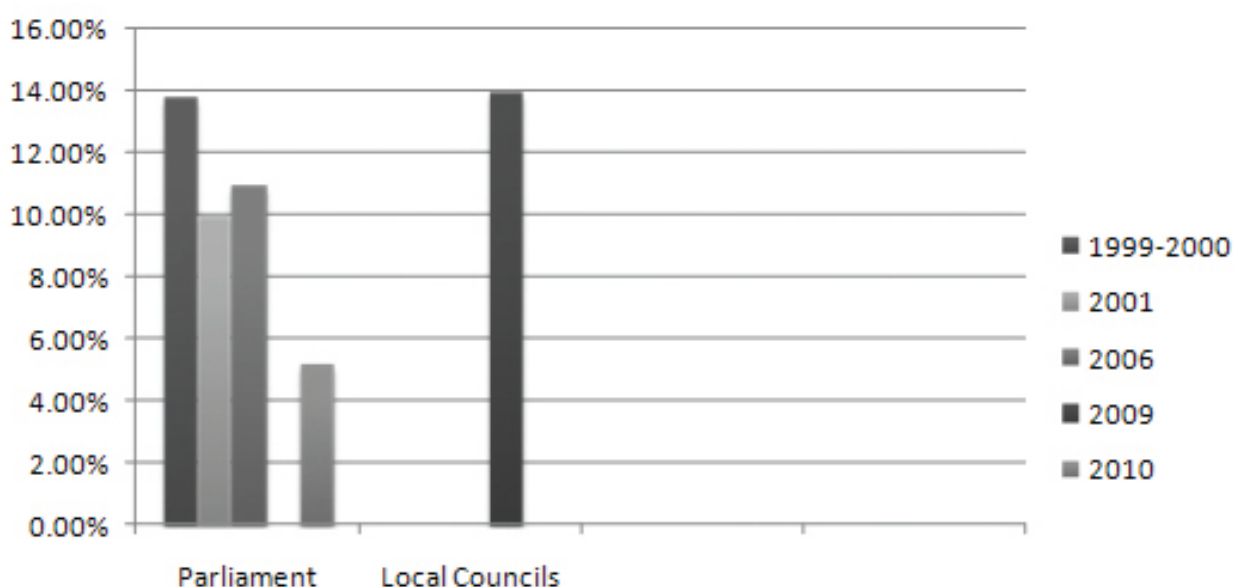
## II. Data Presentation and Analysis

### A. Participation

#### Indicator 1 - Index of women's participation in governance (% women in senior positions in cabinet/council of ministers, parliament, local governance)

Index of women's participation in governance

	Year	Percentage of women appointed or elected
Parliament	1999- 2000	13.8%
	2001	10%
	2006	11%
	2010	5.2%
Local Councils	2009	14%



In 1999-2000 there were a record number of 15 women in Parliament out of a total of 109 seats in the upper and lower houses.

However, this declined after the General Elections in 2001 when only 5 women were elected and 4 women senators were appointed. There were 2 women ministers out of the total of 20 Cabinet ministers.

Government has endorsed MDG3 for women's empowerment, for which a key indicator is the proportion of seats held by women in National Parliament. In 2006 (pre-coup) 11% of women elected to parliament. There were 8 out of 23 female candidates for the total 71 members of the House of Representatives and five women Senators in the 42 members Upper House (Senate). In 2007 there were two women in the Interim Cabinet which was later reduced to one after streamlining of ministerial portfolios in 2008.

### Women in Local Government, 1999-2005 (to end 2008)

Area Name	Town/City Council	1999		2002		2005	
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Ba	Town	2	13	2	13	2	13
Labasa	Town	0	12	0	12	1	11
Lami	Town	2	10	3	9	2	10
Lautoka	City	1	15	2	14	3	13
Levuka	Town	3	5	1	7	4	4
Nadi	Town	2	13	1	14	3	11
Nasinu	Town*	n/a	n/a	1	20	4	17
Nausori	Town	0	12	0	12	0	12
Savusavu	Town	0	9	0	9	1	8
Sigatoka	Town*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	10
Suva	City (Capital)	3	17	2	18	3	17
Tavua	Town	0	9	0	9	0	9
Total		13	115	12	137	23	135
% of women councillors		10.1%		8.0%		14.5%	

\*Nasinu was established in 2003

\*Sigatoka Town Council was dissolved in 1999 following a commission of Inquiry. An administrator was appointed to manage the affairs of the council until 2002 when a Town Clerk was appointed and thereafter elections were conducted.

Source: UNDP Pacific Centre

In the unelected Cabinet 2010, there is 1 female minister out of 19 – Minister of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation and 5 female Permanent Secretaries.

As of 31 January 2009, all city councils dissolved. 18 of the 130 deposed councilors were women, making up 14%. Fiji has had only 1 female mayor in the past. In Feb 2009, the State appointed 6 administrators to coordinate the administration of the local councils, only one of them was a woman, who has since retired.

There are several women who serve as CEOs of local government councils.

### Women in Local Government on 31 January 2009

Numbers of women	Name of Council
2	Ba Town council
1	Labasa Town council
2	Lami Town council
3	Lautoka Town Council
3	Levuka Town Council
1	Nadi Town Council
3	Nasinu Town Council
1	Savusavu Town Council
2	Suva City Council
18 (14%)	Total 130 (100%)

18 out of 130 councillors of elected local government councillors were female. That is 14% of council members being women.

Provincial Council: At the provincial level, there have been women elected or appointed as vice chair persons of the councils. The regime has set up rules/laws regarding entitlement

for positions in provincial councils. SSVM (Indigenous Fijian women organizations, Soqosoqo Vakamarama) had lobbied for councils to increase the quota to meet 30% female representation at all village, tikina, and provincial levels. It should be noted that following the military coup, women are reluctant to take up positions on boards, tribunals and statutory authorities for reasons such as a moral ethical position and not wanting to be partner to country travel bans.

*Female Magistrates:*<sup>6</sup>

Prior to the 2006 military coup, there were 3 female judges out of 13 – making up 23% of the Judiciary, and 8 female Magistrates out of 23, making up 34% of the magistracy.

Women lawyers constituted 32% of all registered lawyers with the Fiji Law Society. There were 97 female lawyers in a total FLS membership of 301 lawyers. This did not include the 10 female lawyers at the DPP’s Office (10 out of 23 lawyer prosecutors, almost 43%). There were 7 females out of 16 lawyers in the Solicitor-General’s Office, also 43%. There were 49 private law firms in Fiji with 12 female partners (17%) out of 67 partners and 6 female sole practitioners out of 55 sole practitioners, making up about 10% of sole practitioners. In 2006, of the 97 female practitioners, 49 worked in Government, statutory bodies or NGOs, which meant that about 50% of women lawyers do not work in private practice. A possible reason for this is that women lawyers are guaranteed at least 3 months paid maternity leave in Government, statutory bodies and with NGOs and that the private work place is not maternity friendly.

In 2006 there were no women in Judicial Services Commission, only one female head of a justice agency (the Fiji Human Rights Commission).

The Chief Magistrate was a woman.

There was one female human rights commissioner out of 3.

There was a female DPP for many years, Justice Nazhat Shameem, but there has never been a female head of the Solicitor-General’s Office or a female Attorney-General.

*Electoral History:*<sup>7</sup>

Fiji general elections, women’s candidates and members of Parliament 1970 -2006

Year of elections	Total number of seats	Number of women candidates	Number women elected	% of women elected to parliament
2006 (pre-coup)	71	23	8	11.27
2001	71	20	5	7.04
1999	71	22	8	11.27
1994	71	9	3	4.2
1992	71	4	1	1.4
1987	71	2	0	0
1982	71	4	1	1.9
1977 March	71	2	2	1.9
1977 September	71	4	2	3.8
1972	52	5	1	1.96

6 Adapted from a speech by P. Imrana Jalal, at the Fiji Women Lawyers Association 2nd anniversary reception, Australian High Commission Residence, 14 June 2006.

7 Source: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

### *Cabinet Ministers 1999 - 2010<sup>8</sup>*

- 1997-99 Minister of Women and Culture Seruwaia Hong Tiy
- 1999-2000 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Fijian Affairs Adi Kuini Teimumu Vuikaba Speed, Tui Noikoro of Navosa Leader of Fiji Labour Party 1989-91, 1995 Leader of Fiji Labour National Federation, 1995-98 Vice-President of Fijian Association Party, 1998-2001 Party Leader. In 2000 she and the rest of the government was deposed in a coup d'état. She lived (1949-2004).
- 1999-2000 Minister for Women, Culture and Social Welfare Lavenia K. Wainiqolo Padarath Vice-President of VLV, the Christian Party.
- 1999-2000 Minister for Tourism and Transport Adi Koila Mara Nailatikau During the coup d'état in May 2000 she was held hostage with a number of other ministers for more than two weeks.
- 1999-2000 Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests Marieta Rigamoto
- 2000-01 Interim Assistant Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Forests, assisting with Agriculture and Fisheries and Assisting the Prime Minister with the responsibility for the Rotuma Agreement
- 2001-06 Assistant Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (to assist with the Blueprint for Fijian and Rotuman Development and the Village Improvement Scheme)
- 1999-2000 Assistant Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Adi Ema Tagicakibau
- 2000-01 Interim Minister of Women, Culture and Social Welfare Ro Teimumu Vuikaba Kepa
- 2001-06 Minister of Education, Youth and Sport (Third in the Cabinet 2001-03) From 2002 she was fourth in the Cabinet.
- 2000-01 Interim Assistant Minister for Women and Culture Adi Senimili Dyer
- 2000-01 Interim Assistant Minister of Women and Social Welfare Bernadette Rounds-Ganilau; 2007-08 Interim Minister for Labour, Industrial Relations and Productivity, Tourism and Environment Deputy Opposition Leader (United People's Party) 2005-06.
- 2001-06 Minister of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation Asenaca Caucau-Filipe; 2006 Minister of State for Housing
- 2001-06 Assistant Minister of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation; 2006 Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Losena Tubanavau Salabula
- 2004-06 Assistant Minister for Culture and Heritage, Ministry of Fijian Affairs, Culture and Heritage Nanise Nagusuca
- 2006 Minister for Commerce and Industry Adi Sivia Tora Qoro Appointed by the Labour Party.
- 2006-07 In Charge of the Ministry of Fijian Affairs Adi Litia Qionibaravi Chief Executive of the Ministry and Secretary of the Grand Council of Chiefs from 2005.
- 2006-07 In Charge of the Ministry of Education Alumita Taganesia As Chief Executive she became Acting Minister after the Military Coup in December.
- 2006-07 In Charge of the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests Alefina Vuki She was Acting Chief Executive Officer
- 2006-07 In Charge of the Ministry of Information and Communications Emi Rabukawaqa
- 2006-07 In Charge of the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Housing Emele Duituturaga
- 2007-08 Interim Minister of Women, Social Welfare and Housing Laufitu Malani
- 2008- Interim Minister of Health, Women, Social Welfare Dr. Jiko Luveni

## Cabinet Ministers/Ministries of the Interim Government

Minister of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation	Jiko Luveni
Permanent Secretary of Public Enterprises	Taina Tagicakibau
Permanent Secretary – Tourism	Taina Tagicakibau
Acting Permanent Secretary – Lands and Mineral Resources	Maria Matavewa
Permanent Secretary – Health	Dr Salanieta Saketa
Permanent Secretary - Information	Sharon Smith-Johns
Chief Register in the office of the Attorney General and Justice	Ana Rokomokoti

\*\*1 female minister out of 19 and 5 female Permanent Secretaries.

### Indicator 2 - Percentage of women in peace negotiating teams

A state led initiative since the military coup of 2006 was the establishment of a National Council for the Peoples Charter initiative on October 10, 2007 which was a 45-member National Council for Building a Better Fiji (NCBBF). The NCBBF membership consisted of representatives and leaders of all major organisations (community, social, civic, religious, business, political) in the country. The inaugural meeting of the NCBBF was held on 16 January, 2008 – but some key stakeholders, in particular women’s human rights organisations, chose not to serve as members of the NCBBF despite the invitation from the state as many felt that such a process should not be organised through an undemocratic process.

There is currently no formal peace negotiating process although there have been efforts to convene political dialogue processes. However, in all such efforts women’s representation is well below the minimum 30% target as femLINKPACIFIC noted<sup>9</sup> that the participating Political Parties were only represented by three women or 12 percent, 18 percent below the minimum national standard or political commitment to women’s representation in decision making forums. There has been little effort by convenors of political forums to be accountable to broader representation of women as well as political party leaders themselves to ensure fair and equitable representation of women in the pursuit of a return to parliamentary democracy. Women’s representation in this process can also ensure that the political dialogue process complies with a set of standards and commitments which the state is required to adhere to. These standards reflect political commitments to gender equality through the National Women’s Plan of Action, as well as a range of international standards including the Millennium Development Goals, the ratification of CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women), the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, the revised Pacific Platform for Action, and the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender Equality, as well as the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 in 2000 (Women, Peace and Security).

### Indicator 3 - Index of Women’s Participation in the Justice & Security Sector (% women in military, police, judiciary, at all levels)

As to the military, females make up less than 2% of the military. In the judiciary, there were 3 female judges out of 23 in 2006, making up 23%.

Women lawyers constituted 32% of all registered lawyers with the Fiji Law Society. This did not include 10 female lawyers at the DPP’s office, representing almost 43%.

In 2006, almost 50% of Pacific regional law students were women.

## Women's Participation in the Justice & Security Sector

	Year	Percentage
Police	2003	35%
	2008	17%
Military		2%
Judiciary	2006	23%
Lawyers		32%
Including 10 female lawyers at DPP's office		43%
Law Students	2006	50%

### *Fiji Police Force*

With regards the Police Force, in 2003 a policy was put into place that gave 35% of places to women and 65% to men. This female recruitment policy has dropped to 25% under the current Police administration.

In 2008, the mid-year class graduated with only 17% women. With the increasing militarization of the Police Force, bringing values of entrenched masculine philosophies the Police Force has become unrepresentative and less accountable to the community. Part of the recommendations of this report is to call for an affirmative action policy for the Police Force and set in place a gender task force on recruitment and training.

### *Military Spending*

The Fiji military is disproportionately large, absorbing expenses that could be diverted to health and education. The military budget is \$94,332 million, 8.6% of the national budget. Furthermore after the illegal takeover in 2006, the military overspent its budget by \$26 million, \$50 million in 2007 and \$30 million in 2008. The last Auditor General's Report produced was in 2006 however this has not been tabled in parliament highlighting the lack of accountability and transparency with the erosion of law.

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC) said in a statement in 2008 that a \$27 million dollar investment in Fiji's military is an extreme waste of financial resource that could be better diverted towards meeting people's basic needs.

The military continues to be an ethnic-Fijian male dominated institution. Females make up less than 2% of the military. Non-indigenous make up less than 0.44%.

### **Indicator 4 - Percentage of women in peacekeeping missions, disaggregated at all levels.**

According to the DPKO June 2010 report, Fiji's total contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations is 276 (48 Police, 7 military experts, 221 troops). There are no women in any deployments or appointments:

- 221 UNAMI Contingent Troops
- 13 UNAMI Individual Police
- 30 UNMIL Police
- 5 Individual Police, 6 experts on mission UNMIS
- 1 Expert on mission UNMIT

It should be noted that since the military coup of 2006, the United Nations is not going to engage future or new Fijian troops for new operations; however, Fiji has up to 2,000 troops on U.N. peacekeeping duties in hotspots that include the Sinai, Iraq and the Sudan, with battalion-sized groups in both Iraq and the Sinai desert. In Iraq, hundreds of Fiji soldiers provide security for U.N operations in the capital, Baghdad, as well as in Basra in the south and Irbil.<sup>10</sup>

**Indicator 5 - Number and percentage of women participating in each type of constitutional or legislative review**

Following the purported abrogation of the 1997 Constitution (April 2009) it was announced on 1 July 2009 in the state's road map for a return to democracy in Fiji, stating that Fiji would have a new Constitution in 2013. This process has not commenced. Thus, there is no data available to populate this indicator.

**Indicator 6 - Percentage of CSOs in Task Forces on SCR 1325 and 1820 (out of total TF members)**

Following the coup of 2006, some women's NGOs who have taken a strong position on the rule of law and return to democracy have been cautious about being involved with mechanisms and processes such as the military controlled "National Council for Building a Better Fiji" and People's Charter consultation and endorsement process established by the regime. The Women's Task Forces set up to assist on the implementation of the Women's Plan of Action have met intermittently since December 2006 (noting that these task forces were initially disbanded in 2004). While it is made up of key ministries and women's NGOs, the task forces have failed to meet at times due to the lack of quota, as well as the low priority given to the task forces by the Ministries. Furthermore there is a lack of required financial and technical resources to support the key recommendations of the WPA, particularly to ensure compliance with CEDAW. For example, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Public Service Commission should be the Chairperson of the Shared Decision Making Task Force, rather than a representative of the Department of Women, so that the Task Force gets the importance and focus it deserves from the relevant line Ministry. It should be noted that, as a result of the military coup of 2006, there has been limited implementation of the 2006 Griffin Report which was a comprehensive review of the Department of Women and a series of recommendations on the implementation of the WPA, including identification of critical areas of priorities. Subsequently, this review process has been replicated in 2009 by the DOW but the current political climate does not augur well for the substantive discussions on women's human rights, etc.<sup>11</sup>

There are no task forces on UNSCR 1325 or 1820 as the Department of Women is yet to reactivate any of the task forces of the National Women's Plan of Action. Additionally, under the current government, there has been no attempt to establish task forces on peace and security which would enable human rights based organisations to participate and contribute to such a process.

In 2010, building on FemLINKPACIFIC'S rural women's media network, we are assisting local women on convening "1325" network meetings to:

10 Fiji Community Global Voices August 2009

11 Fiji CEDAW Shadow Report 2009

Following the coup of 2006, some women's NGOs who have taken a strong position on the rule of law and return to democracy have been cautious about being involved with mechanisms and processes such as the military controlled "National Council for Building a Better Fiji" and People's Charter consultation and endorsement process established by the regime.

- Support the development and implementation of community level action plans on UNSCR 1325;
- Develop appropriate education materials;
- Use community media as a means of documenting issues to ensure women's perspectives are highlighted and to inform dialogue and Peacebuilding processes; and
- Strengthen and enhance our rural women's media network; Contribute to a vibrant national women's information-communication network

In order to:

- Support the development of local action plans for improving women's human security, developed and implemented at community level;
- Assist women at community level to have access to relevant peace and security information to enhance their status and decision making capacities;
- Support women (rural) to effectively communicate their issues and stories;
- Enable more women to share/listen and tell their stories;
- Support members to establish and manage their community radio stations; and
- Meet an increased demand for the establishment of community radio stations within the regions.

It has been recognised that UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (UNSCR 1325), and CEDAW are critical tools for moving the gender equality agenda forward in conflict and post-conflict situations. UNSCR 1325 helps to broaden the scope of CEDAW's application by clarifying its relevance to all parties in conflict and in peace. CEDAW, in turn, provides concrete strategic guidance for actions to be taken on the broad commitments outlined in UNSCR 1325. In Fiji, women's efforts to integrate gender concerns in Security Sector Reform and Governance initially took place within the broader framework of efforts for implementing UNSCR 1325 (Women, Peace and Security). Between 2003 and 2004, members of women's NGO community met as members of the Fiji Women Peace and Security Coordinating Committee, convened through the UNIFEM Pacific Women, Peace and Security project for Melanesia. It was anticipated that through this project, women's NGOs and their government counterparts (not just the Department of Women) would work together to advance the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Since the end of the project, women's NGOs and peace networks have led the development and implementation of UNSCR 1325 initiatives. Between 2003 and 2004, a key outcome of NGO-Government partnership was the recommendations for the 2003 National Security Defence Review. However, while the announcement by Fiji's interim government on May 6th, 2008 may have indicated that there was finally some action on the 2003 recommendation from members of the Fiji Women, Peace and Security Coordinating Committee (WPSCC) to integrate UNSCR 1325 into National Security Policy, this decision continues to deny women access to the National Security Council, particularly in light of Fiji's current political realities:

The recommendation does not reflect the long standing lobbying and initial submission by women to the National Security Defence Review (NSDR) 2003; it is also unclear how this commitment will be implemented.

Once again there is a failure on the part of the interim administration to acknowledge that, while it may be very well meaning in its efforts to implement gender equality commitments, these are in the context of ensuring the women's human rights and all human rights principles are upheld – one of the core components of "1325" – and after all, what role and representation can be expected from women's human rights defenders and peace women in light of events since December 5th, 2006?

It would also be critical for the Interim Administration to clarify: What is the proposed mechanism for consultation with women’s organisations? How can we be assured of a human rights and human security perspective within the national security framework?<sup>12</sup>

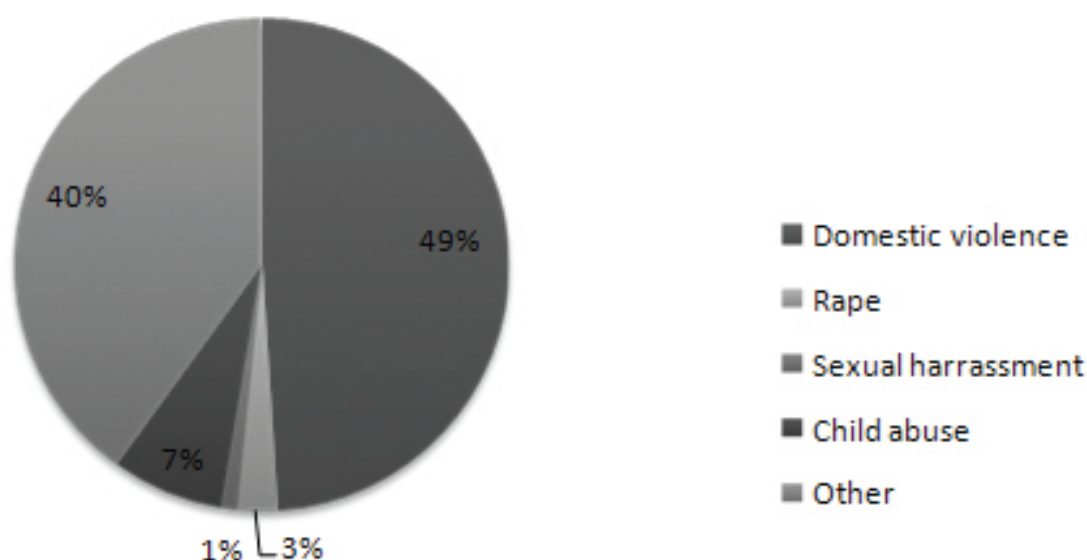
## B. Prevention and protection

### Indicator 7 - Number of SGBV cases reported, % investigated, referred, prosecuted, & penalized.

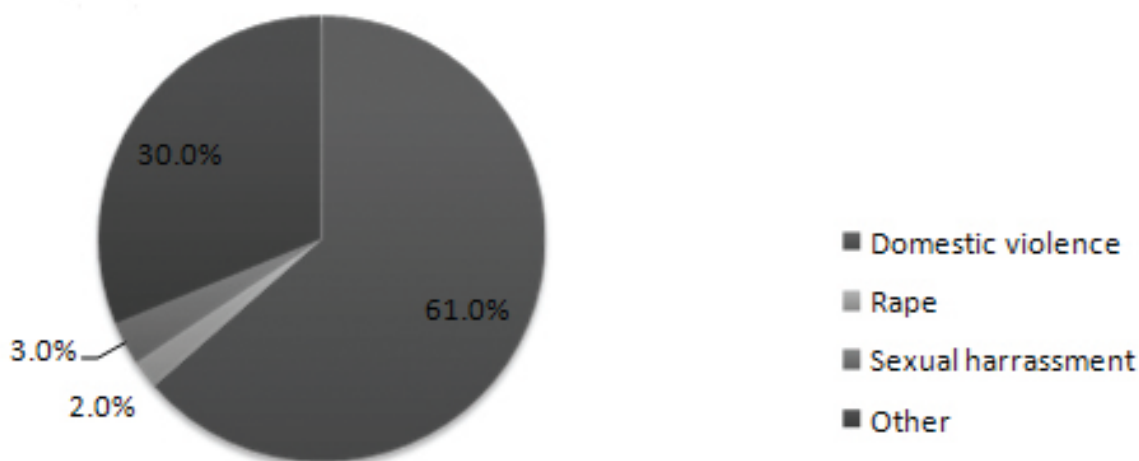
SGBV cases reported at the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre branches in Suva, Ba, Labasa and Nadi

Cases	Year	Percentage of cases reported
Domestic Violence	2009	49%
Rape	2009	2.6%
Sexual Harassment	2009	1%
Child Abuse	2009	7.4%
Other Forms of violence inflicted on women and children	2009	40%
Domestic Violence	2010 (Jan – May)	60.5%
Rape	2010 (Jan – May)	2.3%
Sexual Harassment	2010 (Jan – May)	2.6%
Other Forms of violence inflicted on women and children	2010 (Jan – May)	30%

**Figure 1: Types of violence and abuse against women in 2009**



**Figure 2: Types of violence and abuse against women in 2010\***



\* Please note the reported figures for 2010 do not add up to 100%; 20 cases are missing.

FWCC has recorded, for the first two months of 2010, 89 cases of domestic violence, 4 rape cases, 6 sexual harassment cases, 11 child abuses and 48 other forms of violence exacted on women and children. The FWCC reports also highlight that police are prompting reconciliation of domestic violence during their police crusade despite the “no drop” policy. Aside from the data from the FWCC, other data is not easily accessible from Police sources:

*On 16 August, Simone Nakuna beat his wife Akisi Tuarau, and seriously injured her. He was found guilty by the court of a charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm against his wife. However, during litigation Nakuna informed the court that he had begged forgiveness from his wife who has accepted. Military appointed magistrate Elsie Hudson released him and told him to be on his best behavior for the next 36 months or he would be imprisoned for 20 months if he re-offended. Magistrate Hudson ordered he pay \$30.00 to his wife to compensate for medical bills. This incident was not his first. He has six previous convictions, three of which were similar offences.*

It is the obligation of the judiciary to refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that there is effective protection of women against any act of discrimination. It is of concern that public authorities and institutions are not acting in conformity with this obligation and that there is neither legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men nor assurance through competent national tribunals and other public institutions. Judicial officers fail to uphold the rule of law and access to justice by promoting reconciliation with violent partners, thus endanger the rights and lives of women:

*On 16 September, the military appointed magistrate Elsie Hudson presiding over a domestic violence case told the victim that “Utopia is not on this earth. You will not find a perfect relationship here”. She also asked the victim “What woman has not been slapped by her husband?” This is after the woman had reported to the court that in her four-year marriage, she had been beaten by her husband several times. Magistrate Hudson also asked the survivor to forgive her husband, implying that couple’s relationship was still young.*

*In a rape case on 22 September, the same judicial officer, Magistrate Hudson, acquitted a Tongan national Saia Tauhao charged with rape in July. Magistrate Hudson whilst ruling questioned the credibility of the evidence tendered by the complainant. She said the survivor was intoxicated at that time and it was possible she may have misrepresented the events. The medical report*

*documented bruises on the survivor's thighs and ankles but nothing that could conclude rape. The magistrate said the survivor's version differed greatly from that of other witnesses. Also heard in court was a testimony of a security guard who said that he thought that the Tongan was trying to help the woman out of the water and he assumed it was a domestic dispute.*

A report in the Fiji Sun highlighted an increase in sexual crimes. The police's response to this report focused on parents exercising extra caution in securing their children's safety. Sexual and physical violence on children and women is a socially entrenched behavior. The police force needs to work with the community to modify the cultural patterns of conduct of men and women and modify other practices which are based on the idea of inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes, rather than promoting a protectionist approach.

### **Indicator 8 - Number and quality of gender-responsive laws and policies**

Prior to the military coup of 2006, legislative changes through law reform listed in 'Data' were some of the key developments in the implementation of CEDAW.

For example, the UNIFEM report on the Pacific Islands highlighted Fiji's legislative compliance with CEDAW states that "...Fiji has achieved full compliance with 49 of the 113 indicators. It should be noted however, that Fiji's in a time of significant legislative change and reform. Therefore, whilst the assessment of Fiji's compliance is based on the law in effect as of 30 December 2006, there are nevertheless several important areas relevant to CEDAW that are either already the subject of draft legislation before the Parliament or the subject of investigation".

The current development framework for the state provides the policy framework for the development and advancement of women through the Sustainable Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS) 2008 – 2015 and articulates the priority areas for Gender and Development. The implementation of CEDAW is one of the priorities for the medium term. However, there are no relevant gender equality indicators in this development plan. Neither is there tangible national budget commitment.

#### *Domestic Violence Decree 2009*

The Domestic Violence Decree 2009 was promulgated in August 2009. It provides a very thorough definition of domestic violence and gives police expanded powers to attend and process domestic violence. However, the Decree fails to establish and maintain an education and training programme for police officers, which would acquaint them with techniques for handling incidents of domestic violence to minimize the likelihood of injury to the officer and promoting the safety of the survivors and his/her dependents. An adequate provision for medical practitioners is also lacking. Another gap in the Decree is the establishment of departments, programmes, services, protocol and duties, including but not limited to shelters, counseling programmes and job training programme, to aid survivors of domestic violence. Given Fiji's cultural context whereby most female survivors reside in matrimonial homes or with extended families, access to shelters and safe homes will be critical.

The Decree also lacks programmes to assist the prevention and elimination of domestic violence which includes raising awareness of and public education on the subject. This should be based on developing greater understanding within the community of the incidence and causes of domestic violence and encouraging community participation in the eradication of domestic violence.



There is no provision of support services in the Decree. Given Fiji's economic and social context, such a provision is important to ensure that the objective of the Decree is met.

Whilst the Decree stipulates the standard of proof to be decided on the balance of probabilities, it fails to clarify that the burden of proof in the proceedings is on the accused to demonstrate that he or she was not a perpetrator of domestic violence.

#### *Crimes Decree 2009 – Sexual Offences*

On November 5th, 2009 the interim government promulgated the Crimes Decree which came into effect on February 1st, 2010. The Decree replaced Fiji's Penal Code. The Penal Code was drafted in the 1940s and many of its provisions were adopted from the Indian Penal Code.

The Decree was drafted and brought into effect without consultation or input from women's organizations or any other civil society organizations. The Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) and other feminist organizations in Fiji have worked towards reforming the Penal Code for more than two decades. For example, one of FWRM's first campaigns was the "Anti Rape Campaign" in 1986. FWRM's advocacy work targeted at reforming provisions within the Penal Code which dealt with sexual violence against women and children.

Effect of the Decree: The Decree has broadened the definition of the offence of rape, which now includes the various forms of sexual violence. The Decree has made the offence of rape gender-neutral – rightly recognizing that boys and men can also be victims of sexual assault. The Decree has also removed discriminatory provisions of common law such as corroboration laws and the use of past sexual history of a victim as the means of discrediting the victims' testimony.

Penalties have increased by an average of three years for offences such as attempted rape, defilement of a young person between the ages of 13 and 16 years, defilement of intellectually impaired persons, procuring defilement by threats or fraud or administering drugs. The Decree has substantially increased the penalties for offences such as incest, "householder permitting defilement of a child on premises", "householder permitting defilement of a person less than 16 years" and "conspiracy to defile".

These changes may be viewed as positive in their intent to update Fiji's legislation to better recognize and deal with sexual crimes. Although there are positive elements in the Decree, it still retains provisions that fail to provide women and girls with adequate redress under the law. For instance, even with the increase in penalties for certain sexual offences, the Decree still fails to set a minimum sentence for these offences. Rape and attempted rape have always (even in the old Penal Code) carried a sentence of life imprisonment. However, in practice the convicted rapists and child sexual abusers are frequently given suspended sentences or sentences of less than two years' imprisonment. By not providing a minimum sentence, the Decree allows concerns to persist regarding the consistency of sentencing with the issue left entirely to an individual judge's discretion. It is therefore important that sentencing guidelines (a common practice in many jurisdictions) be formulated and applied.

The Decree does not use human rights framework where the laws and legal language used is around the fundamental issues of protecting a person's dignity, integrity and sexual autonomy. Based on this, the Decree fails to protect women and girls fundamental rights.

The Decree has retained and not replaced terminology that was used in the Penal Code. During the review process in 1996, FWRM's submissions highlighted that the law should move away from Victorian moralistic language – such as carnal knowledge, indecent assault and defilement which are all terms that are based on notions of women's sexuality and chastity as property that requires protection. Due to its use of archaic language, the Decree fails to comply with the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), where

article 2 on the obligation to eliminate discrimination against women requires, as stated in the UNDP and UNIFEM publication entitled “Translating CEDAW into Law: CEDAW legislative Compliance in Nine Pacific Countries” (2007), that such language should be removed as it perpetuates the understanding that women and girls are “damaged” by the offences.

Laws dealing with sexual offences should emphasize the violence in crimes of sexual assault. Therefore, offences should be drafted using terms such as “aggravated sexual assault” and “sexual assault with a weapon”. Using moralistic language such as “carnal knowledge” and “indecent assault” takes away the violence of the act and also perpetuates myths around women’s sexuality.

It is of concern that child sexual abuse offences are similar to the Penal Code and using Victorian terms of defilement of children under 13 years. FWRM had lobbied to have a separate chapter within the law to deal with sexual crimes against children and young people. As stated in FWRM’s Draft Sexual Offences Legislation (1996), the aim was to recognize the fact that child sexual abuse is a pervasive problem and also to assist in incorporating the specific experiences of minors into the law. The law plays an important role in society providing protection for women and children. FWRM submissions for reform are based on the belief that the criminal justice system can play a significant role in the process of replacing the myths about rape and sexual assault and the stereotyped views of the situations in which such crimes occur.

While the Decree contains some improvements from the Penal Code to protect women and girls, and men and boys, from sexual offences, those positive changes are on paper, and the standard set by the Penal Code was not a high one. Concerns remain regarding how the Decree will be applied in the courts, particularly in relation to consistent sentencing of offenders. By failing to update the language to incorporate a human rights based approach to sexual offences, the Decree fails to take the opportunity to provide adequate protection for women and girls or replace myths about rape and sexual assault.

### **Indicator 9 - Number and nature of provisions/recommendations in the TRC and other transitional justice reports on women’s rights**

In June 2005, the SDL Government made public the Reconciliation, Tolerance and Unity (R.T.U.) bill, which among other things provided immunity to the perpetrators of the May 2000 coup. Many sectors of the community criticized the R.T.U. bill, including the National Council of Women Fiji whose formal submission to the Parliamentary Sector Standing Committee called for compliance with UNSCR 1325. The Fiji Law Society condemned the bill outright suggesting that the legislation would “legalize” a coup culture. The army in its submission to the committee on the R.T.U. bill argued that coup leaders released on amnesty could regroup and stage an even more spectacular coup. The government, meanwhile, strenuously defended the bill emphasizing that it was based on the traditional Fijian concept of forgiveness, called “matanigasau.” Due to both domestic and international outcry, the government set aside the bill.

Currently there are no efforts by the state to initiate a TRC process, although there have been several attempts to convene political dialogue processes, but these state-initiated processes select participants rather than enabling a diverse range of representatives and viewpoints, including from women’s human rights and peace activists.

### **Indicator 10 - Extent to which gender and peace education are integrated in the curriculum of formal and informal education**

There have been limited efforts to develop gender-inclusive peace education material,

including by civil society. However, notable publications include:

- “Creating A Culture of Peace: A Training Manual for Pacific Peacebuilders” launched by the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (2006)
- “The Church and Violence against Women” (2006) The Church and Violence against Women is the end product of a four-year project that began in 2003 with a forum to raise people’s awareness on how women and children are affected by violence. This was followed by a regional workshop in 2004 to conscientize the participants about the seriousness of violence. In 2006, a regional curriculum consultation of South Pacific Association of Theological Schools (SPATS) member schools was held to review a draft of materials prepared by the Weavers’ Violence Against Women Committee. This consultation also helped in designing the final form of this study material.<sup>13</sup>
- “Communicating a Culture of Peace through the Strengthened Women and Community Media and Advocacy”, femLINKPACIFIC Research publication (2010)

### **Indicator 11 - Percentage of women (versus men) who receive economic packages in conflict resolution and reconstruction processes.**

There has not been any relevant process in Fiji since October 2000.

## **C. Promotion of a gender perspective**

### **Indicator 12 - Detailed breakdown of gender issues addressed in peace agreements**

There has not been any peace agreement since October 2000.

### **Indicator 13 - Number & percentage of pre-deployment & post-deployment programmes for military & police incorporating SCR 1325, SCR 1820, international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law**

Prior to the military coup of December 2006, women’s human rights organisations such as the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre (FWCC) as well as the Peace programme of the Ecumenical Centre for Research Education and Advocacy provided some level of pre- and post-deployment training particularly for the military. Special attention was paid to address the lack of post trauma counselling services for returning soldiers and police officers, which had resulted in a higher incidence of domestic violence in these households. Curriculum of these training initiatives is not available. However, training undertaken by FWCC would always ensure a women’s human rights perspective. Nonetheless, due to the political situation in the country, many of these services and partnerships have been discontinued.

### **Indicator 14 - Allocated and disbursed funding to CSOs (including women’s groups) marked for women, peace and security projects and programs**

Funds were available in Fiji through the UNIFEM Pacific Women, Peace and Security Project for Melanesia. While a small allocation was available to be accessed directly from UNIFEM Pacific, funds for national level activities had to be channeled through the Department of Women. Therefore, we are unable to determine the overall available funds. Since 2007, femLINKPACIFIC has received an annual grant from AUSAID and the International Women’s Development Agency to support our work on the implementation of UNSCR1325

and we are not aware of any additional funding pool to support the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Fiji.

**Indicator 15 - Allocated and disbursed funding to governments marked for WPS projects and programs**

There are no available or specific data noted in government budgets we have reviewed.

**Indicator 16 - Percentage of women's representation as peace-builders and decision-makers in media content**

*The data collected for indicator 16 do not provide the exact information that the indicator calls for which is "Percentage of women's representation in political power & decision-making in media content." GNWP hopes to integrate this indicator again in the next phase of the project and focus on the portrayal of women and men in the media particularly in the coverage of armed conflict.*

### III. Conclusions and Recommendations

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The following recommendations reflect femLINKPACIFIC's position on the implementation of UNSCR 1325; we also draw on the recommendations submitted to the UN-CEDAW Committee through the Fiji NGO CEDAW Shadow Report.

At state-level:

- Support the development of a Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security involving high level representatives from relevant state agencies as well as women peace and security experts from civil society.
- Formally engage relevant women's civil society experts in designing and implementing national and regional action plans for Resolution 1325, including defense and national security policy (enabling development of a comprehensive rights based framework for protecting women and girls from violence, which links UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888/1889 and CEDAW).
- In close collaboration with civil society, collect names and profiles of women experts for nomination as special envoys and other high-ranking appointments within the UN and ensure that there are indicators on women's representation in the diplomatic service in the Chief Executive Officers of Foreign Affairs performance indicators.
- Ensure that women, peace and security issues are supported through full and effective compliance with CEDAW, as well as UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820, to make sure that women's experiences, needs and perspectives are incorporated into the political, legal and social decisions that determine the achievement of justice and lasting peace.
- Call for the state to clarify what is the proposed mechanism for consultation with women's peace and security experts from civil society and their organizations on peace and national security strategy.
- All state institutions, especially the police, the military and the courts, to ensure that women's rights are protected and upheld and to eliminate discrimination, violence against and sexual exploitation of women and children.
- Integrate gender, peace and security experts from civil society into all aspects of peace operations, including conducting technical surveys, the design of concepts of operation, training, staffing and programs. Additionally, in partnership with gender peace and security specialists from civil society, develop pre- and post-deployment training for troops on topics such as Resolution 1325, international human rights standards, violence against women and the UN's Zero Tolerance Policy on Sexual Abuse.

For the UN and other partners:

- Support a study by women's peace and security experts from civil society to address military spending and demilitarisation including a comprehensive DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategy) in full compliance with UN Security Council resolution 1325.
- Establish a permanent Civil Society Advisory Group on Women, Peace, and Security with a modality for selecting or rotating members. Secretariat support must be provided to the Advisory Group.
- Hold an annual Aria Formula Meeting featuring women from conflict affected countries

to provide these women with the opportunity to speak for the importance of women's leadership in peace building.

- Establish a standard operating practice for travelling Security Council officials to meet with representatives of women's groups working on peace and security.
- Formally solicit civil society input when drafting Resolutions, including those establishing and renewing mission mandates. Seek input from persons in conflict-affected locations as well as from members of international networks.
- Contract women-led civil society organizations to help define curricula for peacekeeper induction training.
- Establish dedicated positions for civil society liaisons in UN Missions.
- Provide independent sources of funding that can be accessed by NGOs to engage in collaborative work on women, peace and security issues within specific contexts or situations.
- Establish standard operating procedures that require the UN to convene civil society organization forums in conflict zones. These forums should be organized by UNDP due to its presence in States before, during and after conflict.
- Establish a requirement that, at the minimum, structured consultations should be held between mediating teams and a women's peace civil society forum.
- Earmark 15% of post-conflict funds managed through multi-donor trust funds to address women's recovery needs and to promote women's empowerment and engagement in peacebuilding, and deliver a large proportion of these funds through civil society organizations.

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