



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES EMPLOYEURS
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DE EMPLEADORES

MEDIA RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYERS SPEAK OUT AGAINST EXPULSION OF ILO MISSION FROM FIJI

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International Employers speak out against expulsion of ILO Mission from Fiji

Tension is mounting after the government of Fiji expelled an ILO Mission from the country on 19 September. The surprise move arose after the ILO refused to agree to terms of reference which denied the mission access to the social partners in ascertaining the full facts surrounding allegations of government violations of workers' rights.

Speaking to ABC News, ACCI Chief Executive Peter Anderson, expressed his disappointment at the development, noting the need for access to all parties in establishing all angles of the case, without which only a "one-sided story" could be achieved. The ILO's legitimate role of investigating reported breaches of international labour standards had to be enforced. Mr Anderson added: "for those matters to be rectified, there needs to be a proper understanding of the facts and good dialogue". The government's position represented, "an unacceptable constraint on the work of any mission, because you do not get the facts".

Brent Wilton, Secretary-General of the International Organisation of Employers, said: "Freedom of Association rights, which are reportedly being denied to workers in Fiji, also apply to employers' organisations, and have to be respected. We commit our full support to our member there, the Fiji Commerce & Employers' Federation."

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