



FIJI TRADES UNION CONGRESS

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YOUR REF:

NATIONAL SECRETARY: Felix Anthony

OUR REF: PUB/01

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PAFCO Meeting Disruption and Adjournment

THE FTUC is extremely disappointed after representatives of Unions were ordered to stop a meeting with the Executives of Pacific Fishing Company (PAFCO) at the PAFCO Board Room this morning.

The meeting began at 10:15 am and at 11:15 am police officers marched in, disrupted the meeting and said they were under orders from Suva to stop the discussions. We were then informed that the meeting would only continue provided the Police Officers were present during the discussions between the CEO PAFCO, Human Resource Manager and Line Managers, PAFCO Employees Union Executives and FTUC Executives. The FTUC refused such an unreasonable demand.

Despite all the assurances by government that unions are able to carry on with their activities without any interference, we are still faced with authorities disrupting trade union work concerning basic human rights including workers' rights. The meeting included FTUC National President, Daniel Urai, myself, PAFCO CEO Mr Bhan Singh, HR Manager Etueni Caucau, PAFCO Employees Union Executives amongst other officials.

The FTUC was meeting with PAFCO Management to discuss issues faced by workers in the fish canning factory which were brought to light during one of their recent meetings with workers of PAFCO in September this year.

FTUC strongly condemns this action taken by police and seeks an explanation on the legitimacy of their behavior, and demands that the names of those from Suva who had ordered such actions undertaken by the Levuka Police be revealed. It is unfortunate that such deplorable actions continue to occur in our country while we are led to believe that our human rights are still very much intact.

Felix Anthony
National Secretary

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