



FIJI TRADES UNION CONGRESS

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DATE: 20/02/14

FTUC RELEASE NO: 59-02/14

Khaiyum's Contempt for Unions

Aiyaz Sayed- Khaiyum is once again attacking Unions for taking a stand against his autocratic rule. FTUC urges all countries to be cautious of their dealings with this undemocratic Regime that is not well known for keeping its promises. All decrees are imposed on the people and do not reflect the wishes of the people of Fiji. The world knows this fact.

Khaiyum appears to want the world and the people of Fiji to believe that he has a God - given right to impose his will on the people of Fiji. We do not believe so. This Sayed-Khaiyum Government has crushed the rights and freedom of all people in Fiji like never before in our history. The International community has condemned all the draconian Decrees manufactured by Khaiyum. Yet he attempts to show that he feels for the people of Fiji when Unions warn the International Community to be cautious and wasted no time in attempting to demonize Trade Unionists. It is time that Khaiyum takes responsibility for his actions and stop those crocodile tears for the people of Fiji. Fiji has been a pariah State not because of Trade Unions but because of this dictatorship and its contempt for the people of Fiji. If Khaiyum feels so much for the people of Fiji, he needs to give back to them their freedom and fundamental rights. Revoke those draconian Decrees. Better still, he can give the Country, which he stole, back to the people immediately. Let us see his real intentions.

Khaiyum has also questioned Union leaders on their involvement in Politics, stating that Unionists have not sought a vote from members on their political involvement. This is incorrect. Trade Union Leaders are democratically elected and have the mandate of their members. Their guiding principles and objectives are clearly stated in their respective Constitutions. Trade union leaders will never be neutral when it comes to the needs of their members, however hard the Regime attempts. The pathetic new National Minimum Wage, the ENI Decree, civil service decrees, redundancies, removal of workers' benefits

and dignity at work are just a few of the long list of issues workers of Fiji face. Our members' pleas are the driving force behind Unionists' actions. Trade Unions are the only hope workers in Fiji have, to fight for **their** rights. Khaiyum may wish to familiarize himself with these issues before opening his mouth. On the other hand let me ask, what vote has Khaiyum sought to impose himself on the people of Fiji and deny the people their freedom and rights? It is time that he reminds himself that he is not elected by the people of Fiji and does not have their mandate whatsoever. It is time he swallowed humble pie and stop masquerading as the people's "man".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Felix Anthony', with a stylized, cursive script.

Felix Anthony
National Secretary

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