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International Transport Workers' Federation  
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte  
Fédération Internationale des ouvriers du transport  
Internationella transportarbetarefederationen  
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation  
Международная федерация транспортников  
الاتحاد الدولي لعمال النقل

His Excellency the President  
Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote  
1 Berkley Crescent  
Suva  
Fiji

*Via email: [t.rasogosoqo@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:t.rasogosoqo@govnet.gov.fj)*

Our ref: OGS/SMC/jm

26 March 2019

Dear Mr President,

On behalf of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), a global union federation uniting 665 transport trade unions with a total membership of nearly 18.5 million workers in 147 countries, I would like to express my deep concern about the current labour situation at Fiji airports.

We have been informed about a grave and deepening dispute between Fiji Airports Limited (FAL) and air traffic controller members of the Fiji Public Service Association (FPSA), who are affiliated to the ITF.

The ITF have also noticed several news stories covering the dispute, and even worse voicing safety concerns in the local and international media.

The FPSA has already issued a statement explaining its claims and grievance in detail. They have a long list of issues, which we are not going to repeat here. We would like to emphasise that the ITF is very concerned that the sequence of events is unnecessarily escalating an already difficult situation into a deadlock.

The ITF is a strong supporter of cooperative, well-developed industrial relations structures all around the world. As a matter of principle, we believe that only negotiation and proper arbitration procedures should be used to prevent or end such disputes.

I would therefore appeal for you to intervene and ensure FAL comes to the negotiating table with the intention of reaching a full and fair settlement of the very important issues raised by FPSA. Such an action would demonstrate a commitment to good labour relations at Fiji airports and would be an important contribution to a positive and stable future for the aviation industry of Fiji.

Allow me to reemphasise that the ITF considers that a good social dialogue in such a situation is the only way to find the best, mutually acceptable and long-lasting solutions for the current dispute and to build trust between all parties for the future.

I would be very interested to hear your comments on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen" followed by a stylized flourish.

Stephen Cotton  
General Secretary

CC:

R. Singh, General Secretary, Fiji Public Service Association

Kamlesh Kumar, Secretary, ITF Coordinating Committee in Fiji