

Countries at Risk: FIJI

FIJI: NO PARADISE FOR WORKERS RIGHTS

Since the 2006 coup, Commodore Bainamara-ma has denied the rights of Fijian workers to organise freely.

- On 18 December 2013, the regime issued an amendment to the Essential National Industries Decree (ENI) eliminating trade unions, abrogating collective agreements and making the right to strike almost impossible to exercise.
- On 9 January 2014, union leader Daniel Urai was arrested for instigating an “unlawful” strike at the Fiji Sheraton. Subsequently the charges were dropped, although earlier sedition charges are still pending.
- Not one of the several concerns identified by the ILO in recent years has been addressed.

BAD ACTORS

ANZ Bank: benefited from the government’s ‘Essential Industries Decree’, a 2011 law that deregistered existing unions and voided their collective bargaining agreements.

Tate and Lyle/Fairtrade: Despite the government’s refusal to bargain with workers and the use of fear and intimidation to halt a strike over wages, Fiji sugar remains Fair Trade Certified.

Forestry: In 2013, The Tropik Wood Industries Limited Workers were prevented from holding a ballot for industrial action, allegedly for working in an “essential industry”.

