

FIJI WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT

P.O. Box 14194, Suva, Fiji

Tel: (679) 3312 711/3313 156 Fax: (679) 331 3466

info@fwrn.org.fj

www.fwrn.org.fj

12th February, 2007.

FWRM APPEARS IN COURT OVER MEDIA STATEMENT

THE FIJI Women's Rights Movement Executive Director today appeared in the Fiji Court of Appeal, following a report on an FWRM statement in the *Fiji Sun* newspaper. The newspaper article, titled "Unlawful appointments", appeared in today's edition (12/02/08).

"At about 10.20am I received a hand-delivered letter from the Acting Chief Registrar of the High Court, E. Koroi, which conveyed a request for me to come to the Court of Appeal at 2.15pm. The letter advised me to appear with a legal representative," FWRM Executive Director Virisila Buadromo said.

Justice Daniel Gounder, Justice Nazhat Shameem and Justice Jocelyn Scutt were on the bench and Justice Shameem presided. Justice Shameem raised four points she said concerned the court regarding the published article:

- the statement that recent appointments to the Fiji Court of Appeal were illegal
- the statement that the latest judicial appointments were by a military-backed regime
- the statement that the interim government was 'hand-picking' judges
- the statement that Justice Scutt had supported the controversial Fiji Human Rights Commission elections report

No charges were laid or judgments issued but Justice Scutt read out what appeared to be a prepared statement responding to certain comments made about her.

“While we respect the authority of the Court and hold true to our commitment to the rule of law, we remain confused about the exact nature of this afternoon’s proceedings, which were held in open court,” Buadromo said.

FWRM is awaiting the full transcript of today’s proceedings before commenting further.

FWRM is a multi-ethnic and multicultural NGO committed to removing discrimination against women. By means of core programmes, as well as innovative approaches, the FWRM practice promotes democracy, good governance, feminism and human rights. It strives to empower, unite and provide leadership opportunities for women in Fiji, especially for emerging young leaders.

---ENDS---

**For more information contact Executive Director
Virisila Buadromo (9249906)**

Tara Chetty
Communications Officer
Fiji Women's Rights Movement
www.fwrn.org.fj

G.P.O.Box 14194
Suva
Fiji Islands

Tel:(679) 3313156
Fax:(679) 3313466
Mobile: (679) 9268342

The Fiji Women’s Rights Movement is a multiethnic and multicultural non-governmental organisation committed to removing discrimination against women through institutional reform and attitudinal change. Our vision is for the women of Fiji to be free from all forms of discrimination, have equal access to opportunities and to live in a healthy environment where the principles of feminism, democracy, good governance, multiculturalism and human rights prevail.

This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, PLEASE NOTE any use or dissemination of this communication is prohibited and no confidentiality rights or privilege are hereby waived. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by telephone at our cost and destroy and/or delete all hard and soft copy data relating to this transmission. The contents of this email, unless expressly stated, do not comprise the views of, or any representation by, the Fiji Women's Rights Movement . FWRM has active anti-virus measures on its electronic mail system but cannot accept any liability for virus damage suffered by any recipient as a result of this or any transmission to that recipient.