



**LAWASIA**

THE LAW ASSOCIATION FOR  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

*Founded in 1966*

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## **LAWASIA CONCERN FOR FIJI**

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LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, has observed recent developments in Fiji with concern not only for rule of law and the independence of the judiciary but also for the democratic and human rights of the people of Fiji.

Recent action that has seen the abrogation of Fiji's Constitution and dismissal of some members the country's judiciary represents a debasement of the rule of law in Fiji and offers no solutions to the complex legal and political challenges produced by Fiji's history of coups. Further, the delay of another five years before Fiji citizens are able to elect their own government is an unacceptable suspension of their democratic rights.

LAWASIA calls on Fiji's military rulers to respect the decision of the country's Court of Appeal and urges the President of Fiji to appoint an independent caretaker Prime Minister to take the country to democratic elections as soon as possible.

LAWASIA, in addition, records its concern at reports of media censorship and calls on the current administration in this time of crisis to facilitate a free flow of information to Fiji's citizens as well as to those outside the country who have concern for Fiji's future.

LAWASIA considers that the continued assaults on the rule of law in Fiji may have far-reaching consequences for the economic and political future of the country. It calls on the current administration to

engage productively with the legal community both inside and outside Fiji to form a better understanding of how rule of law can be restored before further damage results.

GLENN FERGUSON

PRESIDENT