

Country Advice

Fiji – FJI39933 – Domestic Violence – Indo-Fijian – Police Protection – Legal Protection 9 March 2012

1. What protection would be available in Fiji for a woman fleeing from familial violence (either from her father or future husband)?

Legal/police protection is available in Fiji for women fleeing violence, and such protection is not dependant on the *type* of violence from which a woman is fleeing, though information was found which suggests that it is difficult to access emergency accommodation. Reports suggest, however, that both the general public, and more importantly the judiciary and the police force, may have a limited knowledge/understanding of the protections available.

Reports were found which indicate that counselling and legal aid services are available to women fleeing domestic violence, and are provided by Non-Government Organisations, in particular, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre.

Legislation

The most relevant laws relating to violence against women are the *Domestic Violence Decree* (2009) the Crimes Decree (2009) and the Penal Code. The contents of the Domestic Violence Decree can be found here. Part 1, section 3(1) provides the following definition of domestic violence:

"Domestic violence" in relation to any person means violence against that person ('the victim') committed, directed or undertaken by a person (,the perpetrator') with whom the victim is, or has been, in a family or domestic relationship.²

The contents of the Crimes Decree can be found here. Part 15, Division 5, Sections 274 and 275 of the Crimes Decree states:

274. (1) A Person commits a summary offence if he or she unlawfully assaults another person.

275. A Person commits a summary offence if he or she commits assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Penalty – Imprisonment for 5 years.³

The contents of the *Penal Code* can be found here. Chapter 25, Sections 244 and 245 of the Penal Code states:

¹ Domestic Violence Decree (Promulgated 7 August 2009), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/promu/promu_dec/dvd2009191/ - Accessed 27 February 2012.

Domestic Violence Decree (Promulgated 7 August 2009), PACLII website

http://www.paclii.org/fj/promu/promu_dec/dvd2009191/ - Accessed 27 February 2012.

Crimes Decree (Promulgated 4 November 2009), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/promu/promu_dec/cd200995/ - Accessed 27 February 2012.

- 244. Any person who unlawfully assaults another is guilty of a misdemeanour, and, if the assault is not committed in circumstances for which a greater punishment is provided in this Code, is liable to imprisonment for one year.
- 245. Any person who commits an assault occasioning actual bodily harm is guilty of a misdemeanour, and is liable to imprisonment for five years, with or without corporal punishment.⁴

Restraining Order/Reconciliation

With regard to the use of a restraining order, Part 2, Section 14 of the *Domestic Violence Decree* (2009) states:

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), a police officer must make an application for a domestic violence restraining order for the protection of a person who is, or may become, a victim of domestic violence in the following cases –
- (a) where a person is charged with a domestic violence offence, or
- (b) where the police officer suspects or believes that –
- (i) a domestic violence offence has recently been committed, is being committed, is imminent, or is likely to be committed, and
- (ii) (ii) the victim's safety or wellbeing is at risk.
- (iii) (2) Where subsection (1) applies a police officer must make an application for a domestic violence restraining order against the relevant person or persons, being
 - (a) the person charged with a domestic violence offence, or
 - (b) the person or persons who pose the risk.⁵

Part 3, Section 24 of the same Decree states:

⁴ Penal Code of Fiji (undated), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/legis/consol act/pc66/ – Accessed 29 February 2012.

⁵ *Domestic Violence Decree* (Promulgated 7 August 2009), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/promu/promu_dec/dvd2009191/ – Accessed 27 February 2012.

- (a) where a person stands charged before a Court with an offence which is a domestic violence offence, the Court must -
- (i) make an interim domestic violence restraining order under this Decree against the defendant for the safety and wellbeing of the person against whom the offence appears to have been committed; and
- (ii) make an order directing the defendant to appear at the further hearing of the matter on a date and at a location fixed by the Court;
- (b) where a person -
- (i) pleads guilty to, or is found guilty of, an offence which is a domestic violence offence; or
- (ii) the Court intends to stay or terminate the proceedings, the Court must make a domestic violence restraining order under this Decree for the safety and wellbeing of the person against whom the offence or alleged offence was committed.⁶

In a 2011 *Fiji Times* article a former Fijian judge is quoted as stating that: "it is not up to [police officers] whether to apply for a restraining order". The article states that police have: "no choice but to apply for a restraining order whenever they receive complaints of domestic abuse." However, in a Fiji Police Force news report (possibly from 2012), police officers attending legal training were advised by the police force's legal team: "to exercise their discretion when the need arose for application of Domestic Violence Restraining Orders in domestic violence cases." In a 2009 *ABC Radio Australia* report, the director of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) in Fiji cited a case in which a judge removed a restraining order so that the accused could attempt reconciliation with his partner, "against her wishes" (emphasis added). ⁹

Reconciliation

It has been argued that the Fijian custom of reconciliation is often used by magistrates, rather than the imposition of statutory sentencing. The US Department of State reported in 2011 that:

Courts dismissed some cases of domestic abuse and incest or gave the perpetrators light sentences...Traditional and religious practices of reconciliation between aggrieved parties in both ethnic Fijian and Indo-Fijian communities were sometimes taken into account to mitigate sentences in domestic violence cases, and in many cases offenders were released without a conviction on the condition they maintain good behaviour, rather than jailed. ¹⁰

⁶ *Domestic Violence Decree* (Promulgated 7 August 2009), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/promu/promu_dec/dvd2009191/ – Accessed 27 February 2012.

⁷ "Restraining orders to protect victims' 2011, *Fiji Times*, 4 February http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=165289 – Accessed 27 February 2012.

⁸ "Legal Team in the North' (undated), Fiji Police Force website http://www.police.gov.fj/index.php?option=com content&view=article&id=696:legal-team-in-the-north&catid=35:news&Itemid=109 – Accessed 5 March 2012.

⁹ "Fiji Domestic Violence Concern' 2009, *ABC Radio Australia*, 6 October http://www.radioaustralianews.net.au/stories/200910/2706330.htm?mobile – Accessed 28 February 2012.

¹⁰ US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2010 – Fiji*, 8 April. See also Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (undated), *Gender Equality and Social Institutions in Fiji*, OECD website http://genderindex.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/FJI.pdf – Accessed 28 February 2012.

According to a 2009 AusAID report, women from rural areas: "frequently rely on traditional justice systems that are overwhelmingly patriarchal and based on notions of reconciliation..." However, a 2012 report in the *Fiji Times* indicates that the judicial approach to domestic violence can vary. According to the report, a man was arrested and charged after he had verbally abused his wife. At court the man reportedly stated, and his wife confirmed, that the couple had reconciled. The magistrate nevertheless held that the offence was not reconcilable, and at the instigation of police imposed a restraining order and set a date for sentencing. See also *State v Autar [2011] FJMC 163*, in which a husband was accused of physically abusing his wife. The wife subsequently informed the court that she had forgiven and reconciled with her husband. The magistrate nevertheless issued a restraining order, citing Section 24 of the *Domestic Violence Decree* (2009) (text provided above):

Assault causing actual bodily harm is listed as a domestic violence offence in Schedule 1A of the Decree.

Section 24 (1)(b)(i) is a mandatory provision. The only discretion given to the Court is when the safety and wellbeing of the victim is a non-issue. In this case, since the accused is convicted of a domestic violence offence and the safety and wellbeing of the victims are an issue, the Court has no discretion but to issue a restraining order against the accused in addition to the sentence.

I issue a restraining order for the safety and wellbeing of the victims. ¹³

An undated article posted on the website of the FWCC states that "legal literacy on the *Domestic Violence Decree* and the *Crimes Decree*" was needed. The extent of legislative protection may not, therefore, be widely known or understood in Fiji. ¹⁴ A Co-ordinator for the FWCC also provided the following comment to *ABC Radio Australia* in November 2011:

And then we also have the court system whereby we have got the new legislation but the awareness amongst even the courts is quite limited, and the understanding of the whole essence of the [Domestic Violence Decree] is absent. And that is why women still find it difficult to access the justice.¹⁵

In its 2011 Annual Report, Amnesty International concluded that:

High levels of physical and sexual violence against women and girls continued to be reported in the media and by women's organizations. Despite government announcements declaring that the Domestic Violence Decree 2009 had come into force, activists continued to assert that the Decree has not been implemented and that stakeholders, including police, were still not aware of its provisions or how to implement them.¹⁶

¹¹ AusAID 2009, "Fiji Country Report', *Stop Violence: Responding to Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor* p.74 http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/ResVAW_Fiji.pdf – Accessed 29 February 2012. See also Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World* 2009 – *Fiji*, 16 July.

¹² Nabilivalu, S. 2012, "Court Issues Restraining Order Against Man', *Fiji Times*, 14 January http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=190734 – Accessed 29 February 2012.

¹³ State v Autar [2011] FJMC 163; Criminal Case 579.2011 (22 November 2011), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/163 html – Accessed 27 February 2012.

¹⁴ "National meeting on violence against women agrees on concrete plans' 2011, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre website, 18 November http://www.fijiwomen.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=161:national-meeting-on-violence-against-women-agrees-on-concrete-plans&catid=41:press-releases&Itemid=89 – Accessed 29 February 2012.

^{15 ,}Fiji Police need more Training to deal with Violence against Women' 2011, *ABC Radio Australia*, 18 November http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacbeat/stories/201111/s3369941.htm – Accessed 28 February 2012.

16 Amnesty International 2011, *Annual Report 2011* – Fiji.

Police

According to a January 2012 report in the *Fiji Times*, there are 879 women in Fiji's police force, which represents about 20 per cent of the total force. ¹⁷ In a 2010 *Fiji Times* article, the Assistant Commissioner of Police stated that "improved responses to offences against women and children" was a key performance indicator for the police force in 2010. ¹⁸ A July 2011 report by *ABC Radio Australia* states that:

In Fiji, female victims of sexual assault are getting a better response to the complaints lodged with police, thanks to the role of senior female officers. The police force has been working with Fiji's women's crisis centre to increase women's access to justice.¹⁹

However, in November 2011 the Co-ordinator of the FWCC, in an interview with *ABC Radio Australia*, provided the following comment:

...the police force has come out very strongly because they have seen over the last quarter an increase of 118 per cent in reporting of domestic violence cases, so there is a great reason for concern. And it's just that the police within the police force, I believe that enough awareness is not done with the police officers themselves to be trained to raise the awareness. If that was done and they were gender sensitised across the board from management right down to the lower ranks, then we could achieve a lot more.²⁰ (emphasis added)

A "no-drop' policy was instituted in 1995 according to which police are prevented from dropping a charge when a complainant alleges sexual assault or domestic violence, even if the complainant wishes to withdraw the accusation. The policy was extended to all forms of assault in 2008. As a result of the no-drop policy, accusations of domestic violence tend to go to court. It has been claimed, however, that the "no-drop' policy can act as a deterrent to women who do not necessarily want family members/partners brought before a court and/or sentenced. As a result of the no-drop policy can act as a deterrent to women who do not necessarily want family members/partners brought before a court and/or sentenced.

RRT Research Response FJI35536 of 26 October 2009 provides information on police protection for women who have been sexually assaulted.²⁴

Women's Centres

Non-Government Organisations (NGO), which deal exclusively with women's rights issues, and in particular, violence against women, are active in Fiji. The sources consulted indicate

¹⁷ Tokalau, T. 2012, "Need for More Women in Police", *Fiji Times*, 19 January http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=191136 – Accessed 28 February 2012.

¹⁸, Police to Crackdown on Family Violence' 2010, *Fiji Times*, 4 November http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=159190 – Accessed 28 February 2012.

¹⁹ "Fiji's police improve sexual assault response' 2011, *ABC Radio Australia*, 27 July http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/radio/onairhighlights/313459radio/onairhighlights/313459 – Accessed 29 February 2012.

²⁰ "Fiji Police need more Training to deal with Violence against Women' 2011, *ABC Radio Australia*, 18 November http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacbeat/stories/201111/s3369941.htm – Accessed 28 February 2012.

²¹ "No drop policy breaks ground' 2009, *Fiji Times*, 1 December http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=134638 – Accessed 29 February 2012.

²² "Women welcome No-Drop Policy' 2008, *Fiji Times*, 8 June http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=91547 – Accessed 28 February 2012.

²³ AusAID 2008, "Fiji Country Supplement', *Violence Against Women in Melanesia and East Timor – Building on*

²³ AusAID 2008, "Fiji Country Supplement", Violence Against Women in Melanesia and East Timor – Building on Global and Regional Promising Approaches, pp.156-157

http://www.ode.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/vaw_cs_fiji.pdf - Accessed 1 March 2012. RRT Research and Information 2009, *Research Response FJI35536*, 26 October.

that, of these NGOs, the FWCC is the most prominent.²⁵ According to the official website, the FWCC provides the following services in the Labasa area:

- Free and confidential, non-judgmental crisis counselling for victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and sexual harassment;
- Legal advice;
- Accompany or referrals of clients to court, police stations, hospitals and other agencies upon request;
- 24-hour telephone counselling on phone number 3313 300 (operated from Suva); and
- Providing emotional support and options for clients to be able to make choices for themselves.²⁶

Emergency Accommodation

Regarding emergency shelters for women fleeing violence, a 2009 AusAID report states:

For women wanting to escape violent situations, finding alternative accommodation often presents a significant obstacle. Crisis or emergency shelters, largely concentrated in urban centres in Fiji, are owned or administered by NGOs or faith-based organisations. There is a growing need for more crisis accommodation and this accommodation needs to be inclusive of the needs of women and girls with disabilities.²⁷

UNWomen, drawing in part on information from AusAID, stated in a 2011 report:

There is a lack of emergency accommodation for women escaping violent situations. There are Salvation Army-run Family Care Centres in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa, however, these homes are often full.²⁸

RRT Research Response FJI35148 of 21 August 2009 provides further information on the protection available to victims of domestic violence.²⁹

2. Would a woman's ability to access legal protection be affected by her Indian ethnicity?

Reports from the Magistrates Court suggest that ethnicity does not affect access to the judiciary with regard to domestic violence. Information was not found on whether ethnicity affects access to police protection.

Access to the Courts

http://unwomenpacific.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/UN%20Women%20Ending%20VAW%20Literature%20R eview%202nd%20Edition.pdf – Accessed 29 February 2012.

29 RRT Research and Information 2009, *Research Response FJI35148*, 21 August.

²⁵ AusAID 2009, "Fiji Country Report", Stop Violence: Responding to Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor pp.76 and 79 http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/ResVAW Fiji.pdf – Accessed 29 February

²⁶ "Fiji Womens Crisis Centre: Labasa' (undated), Fiji Women's Crisis Centre website http://www.fijiwomen.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=102&Itemid=111 - Accessed 29 February 2012.

²⁷ AusAID 2009, "Fiji Country Report', Stop Violence: Responding to Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor p.76 http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/ResVAW Fiji.pdf – Accessed 29 February 2012. ²⁸ UNWomen 2011, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls: Evidence, Data and Knowledge in Pacific Island Countries: Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography 2nd Edition, July

In 2011, the following cases involving domestic violence, which appear to have involved Indo-Fijians, were brought before the Magistrates Court, indicating that some Indo-Fijian women do access the justice system. The socio-economic status of the claimants could not be identified. Acquittals are marked with an asterisk.

- State v Autar [2011] FJMC 163³⁰;
- State v Ali [2011] FJMC 150³¹;*
- State v Prasad [2011] FJMC 110³²;
- State v Singh [2011] FJMC 108³³;*
- State v Ram [2011] FJMC 107³⁴;*
- State v Kumar [2011] FJMC 87³⁵;
- State v Kumar [2011] FJMC 81³⁶;*
- State v Bano [2011] FJMC 80³⁷;*
- State v Gounder [2011] FJMC 28³⁸;
- State v Wati [2011] FJMC 26³⁹; and
- State v Sharma [2011] FJMC 36⁴⁰.

Information was not found on how many domestic violence cases reached the courts in 2011, however, it should be noted that in 2010 there were reportedly 882 cases of domestic violence

³⁰ State v Autar [2011] FJMC 163; Criminal Case 579.2011 (22 November 2011), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/163 html – Accessed 27 February 2012.

³¹ State v Ali [2011] FJMC 150; Criminal Case 510.2010 (14 November 2011), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/150 http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/150 html – Accessed 29 February 2012.

³² State v Prasad [2011] FJMC 110; Criminal Case 1143.2006 (14 October 2011), PACLII website, http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/110 html – Accessed 29 February 2012.

³³ State v Singh [2011] FJMC 108; Criminal Case 1126 of 2009 (11 October 2011), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/108 html – Accessed 29 February 2012.

³⁴ State v Ram [2011] FJMC 107; Criminal Case 607.2009 (4 October 2011) PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/107 html – Accessed 29 February 2012.

³⁵ State v Kumar [2011] FJMC 87; CRC 406.2010 (29 July 2011) PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/87 html – Accessed 29 February 2012.

³⁶ State v Kumar [2011] FJMC 81; CRC 583.2007 (22 July 2011), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/81 html – Accessed 29 February 2012.

³⁷ State v Bano [2011] FJMC 80; CRC 1300.2009 (22 July 2011), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/80 html – Accessed 29 February 2012.

³⁸ State v Gounder [2011] FJMC 28; Criminal Case 232 of 2011 (14 March 2011), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/28 html – Accessed 29 February 2012.

³⁹ State v Wati [2011] FJMC 26; Criminal Case 1060 of 2008 (9 March 2011), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/26 html – Accessed 29 February 2012.

⁴⁰ State v Sharma [2011] FJMC 36; CRC10.2011 (15 February 2011), PACLII website http://www.paclii.org/fj/cases/FJMC/2011/36 html – Accessed 29 February 2012.

dealt with by the Suva office of the FWCC. 41 Information regarding figures for 2011 was not found.

Police Protection

No reports were found on whether a woman's ability to access police protection is affected by her being Indo-Fijian. Reports indicate, however, that racial discrimination has occurred within the police force. According to a 2009 article in *Fiji Times*, the then Police Commissioner, Esala Teleni:

...launched an attack on Indians in his force, calling them backstabbers and liars. And he says any of them who oppose his Christian mission will be booted out of the force. "No one is going to deter me and my Jesus", he told police in Suva. 42

Teleni resigned as Police Commissioner in 2010.⁴³ Ioane Naivalurua is the current Police Commissioner. In a January 2012 article in the *Fiji Times*, Naivalurua was quoted as stating:

...my main objective as the Brigadier General [is] to get rid of policies of gender, religion, race and empire building within the police...⁴⁴

According to a February 2012 report in the *Fiji Times*, Commodore Bainimarama stated at the Police Leadership Symposium that the role of the Fiji Police Force will always be "to protect and to serve the people" regardless of "race or creed". The report then states:

However, Commodore Bainimarama, who was speaking at the opening of the Fiji Police Leadership Symposium, acknowledged there were instances where this has lapsed. "There have been circumstances where personal interest and selfish thinking has provided the basis for "protecting and serving" our people," he said. Commodore Bainimarama said the force had its work cut out to remain relevant in modern times.⁴⁵

RRT Country Advice FJI37781 of 25 November 2011 provides further information on Indo-Fijians within the police force. 46

General Treatment of Indo-Fijians

In its 2011 *Annual Report*, Freedom House provided the following assessment of racial discrimination in Fiji:

Race-based discrimination is pervasive. Indigenous Fijians receive preferential treatment in education, housing, land acquisition, and other areas. Discrimination, economic hardship, and political turmoil have caused many Indo-Fijians to leave the country in recent decades. The resulting void has been filled in part by Chinese migrants, though

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⁴¹ Deo, P. (undated), "Highest Number of Domestic Violence Cases Recorded', *Fiji Village*http://www.fijivillage.com/?mod=archivedstory&id=3012109acaa5ecc1917690a4f53121# – Accessed 1 March 2012.

⁴² Field, M. 2009, "Fiji Police Chief Attacks Indian Police Officers', Stuff.co.nz website, 22 February http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/1404533/Fiji-police-chief-attacks-Indian-police-officers – Accessed 28 February 2012; see also "Fiji Police Commissioner's Comments Deemed Racist' 2009, *Solomon Times Online*, 20 February http://www.solomontimes.com/news.aspx?nwID=3616 – Accessed 1 March 2012.

⁴³ "Human rights groups welcome change to Fiji police leadership' 2010, *Australia Network News*, 1 September – http://australianetworknews.com/stories/201009/2999738 http://

http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=191136 – Accessed 28 February 2012.

⁴⁵ Vuibau, T. 2012, "Serve, Protect and be Informed', *Fiji Times*, 22 February http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=193947 – Accessed 28 February 2012.

their growing economic strength has made them targets of indigenous Fijian resentment and attacks. 47

Question 2 of *RRT Research Response FJI35536* of 26 October 2009 provides a basic overview of race-based discrimination in Fiji, and includes information from previous RRT Research Responses.⁴⁸

Indo-Fijian Women and Suicide

In a November 2011 interview with *ABC Radio Australia*, a project officer with Fiji's National Committee on the Prevention of Suicide stated that the incidence of suicide among young Indo-Fijian women is "really at [an] epidemic level and that's why we're doing the workshop in Labasa", and describes the "sugar cane belt" as a "hot-spot". ⁴⁹ The project officer also stated:

I hate to say this but [Indo-Fijian women are] sort of devalued to some extent and there's such a lot of cultural pressure I think for young women to live with their very narrow roles and I think that certainly to some extent there's been more liberation of women overall, but among the Indo-Fijian culture that's probably not so true. So there is that and I guess a comment over the weekend following the workshop, what was termed a failure or forgiveness among the Indo-Fijian which I had not really heard before in terms of studies, but I think it's sort of really strict kind of atmosphere in which young women live and so there's a lot of pressure to perform well and there's a lot of consequences if people don't fulfil their roles in a particular way.

...in the studies that I've read arranged marriages have been a factor kind of putting women in sort of isolated situations and sort of isolated from their families of origin, so that certainly contributes to the pressure. Yeah, and I think the economic pressure on Indo-Fijians is tremendous and there's a lot of risk in their daily life in terms of making a living. So certainly that contributes as well.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ RRT Country Advice 2010, Country Advice FJI37781, 25 November.

⁴⁷ Freedom House 2011, Freedom in the World – Fiji, 26 May.

⁴⁸ RRT Research and Information 2009, *Research Response FJI35536*, 26 October.

⁴⁹ "Suicide at "epidemic levels" in Fiji' 2011, *ABC Radio Australia*, 7 November http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/radio/onairhighlights/405390radio/onairhighlights/405390 – Accessed 29 February 2012.

^{50 &}quot;Suicide at "epidemic levels" in Fiji' 2011, *ABC Radio Australia*, 7 November http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/radio/onairhighlights/405390radio/onairhighlights/405390 — Accessed 29 February 2012.

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AusAID 2009, "Fiji Country Report', *Stop Violence: Responding to Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor* p.74 http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/ResVAW_Fiji.pdf - Accessed 29 February 2012

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"Fiji Womens Crisis Centre: Labasa' (undated), Fiji Women's Crisis Centre website http://www.fijiwomen.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=102&Itemid=111 – Accessed 29 February 2012

Freedom House 2011, Freedom in the World – Fiji, 26 May

Freedom House 2009, Freedom in the World 2009 – Fiji, 16 July

"Human rights groups welcome change to Fiji police leadership' 2010, *Australia Network News*, 1 September – http://australianetworknews.com/stories/201009/2999738.htm – Accessed 23 September 2010

"Legal Team in the North' (undated), Fiji Police Force website http://www.police.gov.fj/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=696:legal-team-in-the-north&catid=35:news&Itemid=109 – Accessed 5 March 2012

Nabilivalu, S. 2012, "Court Issues Restraining Order Against Man', *Fiji Times*, 14 January – Accessed 29 February 2012

"National meeting on violence against women agrees on concrete plans' 2011, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre website, 18 November http://www.fijiwomen.com/index.php?option=com content&view=article&id=161:national-

http://www.fijiwomen.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=161:national-meeting-on-violence-against-women-agrees-on-concrete-plans&catid=41:press-releases&Itemid=89 – Accessed 29 February 2012

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Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (undated), *Gender Equality and Social Institutions in Fiji*, OECD website http://genderindex.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/FJI.pdf Accessed 28 February 2012

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