

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: FJI35667
Country: Fiji
Date: 20 November 2009

Keywords: Fiji – FJI35667 – Riverina Fijian Community Inc – Treatment of Fijian returnees – Fiji pro democracy movement in Australia.

This response was prepared by the Research & Information Services Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. This research response may not, under any circumstance, be cited in a decision or any other document. Anyone wishing to use this information may only cite the primary source material contained herein.

Questions

- 1) **Please contact Sai Laveta, the President of the Riverina Fijian Community Inc and ask him the following questions:**
 - A. **When was the Riverina Fijian Community Inc established?**
 - B. **Who established the Riverina Fijian Community Inc?**
 - C. **For what purpose was the Riverina Fijian Community Inc established?**
 - D. **How many members does the Riverina Fijian Community Inc have?**
 - E. **How many members of the Riverina Fijian Community Inc are citizens or permanent residents of Australia?**
 - F. **Deleted**
 - G. **Do you have any information about how people who have been involved with pro-democracy organisations in Australia have been treated if they have gone back to Fiji?**

RESPONSE

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Mr Laveta was contacted in regard to this matter on 2 November 2009 (RRT Research & Information 2009, Email to S. Laveta 'Request for assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney (RRT ref: FJI35667)', 2 November – Attachment 1).

Mr Laveta replied on 10 November 2009 and provided the following information:

I am responding to the questions you asked about [Applicant name deleted]. My answers are as follows:

A. The Riverina Fijian Community Inc. was established in 1991.

B. The first group of Fijian who want to settle down in Griffith, Leeton other towns close by.

C. A means of get together for all Fijians living in the Riverina areas.

D. Around 200 members.

E. More than 90%

F. Nearly all our members are against the illegal government which is in power in Fiji but a few of us are very active including [Applicant name deleted]. We usually meet on the second week of every month and we are affiliated to the Australian Fijian movement for democracy with a former colonel of the Fiji Military Forces as the President (Mr. Jone Baledrokadroka)

G. We have written assurances by our President Mr.Baledrokadroka and the former prime minister of Fiji that our safety is not guaranteed (Laveta, S. 2009, Email to RRT Research & Information 'RRT ref FJI35667', 10 November – Attachment 2).

List of Attachments

1. RRT Research & Information 2009, Email to S. Laveta 'Request for assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney (RRT ref: FJI35667)', 2 November.
2. Laveta, S. 2009, Email to RRT Research & Information 'RRT ref FJI35667', 10 November.