



# FIJI HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

GPO Private Mail Bag  
SUVA, FIJI ISLANDS

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## **Press Statement: Media Inquiry Progress – August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007.**

The Fiji Human Rights Commission consultant, appointed to inquire into freedom and independence of the Fiji media, has reported a full diary of consultations in the first three days of his work.

The independent consultant, Dr James Anthony, has extensive media experience as press secretary to significant political and judicial figures in New Zealand and Australia. He has worked in the areas of labour rights and environmental rights in Fiji and Hawaii since 1956. He has a distinguished record as an advocate for human rights.

Dr Anthony has received warm reception and cooperation from a wide range of stakeholders, including media personnel, publishers, journalists, political parties, Government Ministers, NGOs, members of the judiciary, church leaders, and trade unionists. In addition, other stakeholders have indicated that they will make written submissions to assist the Inquiry.

A number of journalists have also given their testimony under condition of anonymity and the consultant will respect their privacy and confidentiality. The names of those who wish to make submissions in confidence will not be divulged in the consultant's report to the Commission.

The public interest in making submissions is probably due to the fact that no such media inquiry from a human rights perspective has been undertaken in the past. Fiji's people are not only highly literate, they also keep in touch with national and international events through the media. The Commission therefore considers the public's views on the media to be extremely important and is undertaking this Inquiry in the public interest.

The date for submissions to the consultant, Dr Anthony, has been extended to August 15<sup>th</sup> due to the requests for more time to make written submissions.

Dr Shaista Shameem  
Director

