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The Law Society

6 November 2012

Dear Attorney General

Fiji: NGO Citizens Constitutional Forum

I write in relation to the recent developments surrounding the report by the Law Society Charity entitled "*Fiji: The Rule of Law Lost*" and which was adopted by the Law Society of England and Wales.

Since the publication of the report contempt proceedings have been brought by the government of Fiji against the NGO Citizens Constitutional Forum (CCF) for citing passages from the report, published earlier this year. CCF is an organisation which supports community education and advocacy in relation to Fiji's Constitution, democracy, human rights and multiculturalism.

The Law Society and the Law Society Charity strongly believe that the CCF should not face proceedings for simply citing a report, produced by another organisation.

We are especially concerned by these events due to the apparent assault on freedom of expression. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that: *Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.*

On behalf of the international community the Law Society urges that any proceedings against the Citizens Constitutional Forum should be dropped immediately.

Yours Sincerely

Lucy Scott Moncrieff
President

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