



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

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For immediate release
17 August 2005

ICJ urges Fijian Parliament to ensure Unity Bill complies with international law

In a legal submission presented to Parliament the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) today urged the Parliament of Fiji to ensure that provisions for amnesty for gross human rights violations and for serious crimes in the proposed Promotion of Reconciliation, Tolerance and Unity Bill do not violate Fiji's international obligations. Fiji has an obligation under customary international law to effectively investigate the facts, to prosecute those responsible for the violations or crimes and to punish them appropriately.

The ICJ also called on the Parliament to ensure that victims of human rights violations are guaranteed reparation and that victims of crime have access to justice and assistance from the state. The ICJ recommends that the Unity Bill should specifically define victims as not only the direct victims but also indirect victims, who have suffered physical, material or mental harm as a consequence of a human rights violation or a crime.

The full text of the submission can be found at www.icj.org.

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The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world's most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

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