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***End the violations of Fijian workers’ rights on SARUP-1!***

We are writing to you from **YOUR UNION** to communicate our major concern relating to persistent violations of worker’s rights at the Suva Arterial Roads Upgrading Project-1 (SARUP 1 Contract No. FRA/TIISP/16-01) in Fiji.

The project is under construction by the China Railway No 5 Engineering Group (CR5), a subsidiary of the China Railway Group Limited for the Fiji Road Authority (FRA). It was previously co-financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB), but was forced to withdraw their USD 30.4 million funding when authorities failed to follow the ADB procurement guidelines. With the FRA in financial control over the project, a severe cash shortage and the ongoing impact of the pandemic has slowed progress significantly.

Since 2019, workers on the project have been the victims of grave violations of international labour standards. The Construction, Energy & Timber Workers Union of Fiji (CETWUF) has attempted to engage in collective bargaining with CR5. However, the company has consistently refused to conclude negotiations that would improve wages and conditions for project workers. CETWUF has also reported that more than 80 unjustified termination cases have been reported to the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations. Sadly, bureaucratic delays have prevented these workers from receiving justice.

Having endured years of union-busting and recently, pandemic mismanagement, workers on the project have now run out of patience and have filed a secret ballot notice for strike action in the next 21 days.

**In solidarity with workers on the SARUP-1 project, we are calling for an immediate end to CR5’s exploitative labour practices. We demand:**

* that CR5 management in Fiji engages seriously and completely with the collective bargaining process, urgently finalizing the 2021 Log of Claims and giving immediate effect to that agreement, substantially increasing living standards.

Kindly note that our Union supports Construction Energy & Timber Workers Union of Fiji who is an affiliate of Building & Wood Workers representing “12 million” members around the world. Failure to settle the above demands may compel the international body to campaign and take appropriate action against your company.

Yours sincerely

**Your Name**

**Your Union**