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Transparency International

Fiji

M E D I A R E L E A S E

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Transparency International Calls for Explanation of Deportation

INTERIM GOVERNMENT MUST EXPLAIN DEPORTATION

TI Fiji is deeply disturbed and disappointed with the Interim Government's decision to deport The Fiji Times Publisher and Acting CEO, Rex Gardner. This is the third case of media personnel being deported in the past year, the second for this organisation.

For the sake of transparency and accountability, TI Fiji calls on the Minister for Immigration to explain to everyone in Fiji, particularly to existing and potential overseas investors, on what legal basis Mr Gardner was expelled from the country.

"Trying to run a business in Fiji is already extremely challenging, which over the next few years will witness the survival of the fittest with unemployment becoming more of a social issue. We need to be promoting investor confidence which such actions simply destroy," says Dave Aidney, Deputy Chair of Transparency International Fiji.

Just as the media must be held accountable for their actions, so too must the Interim Government. They have a responsibility to the people of Fiji to fully explain their actions.

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