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**HTUR/JB**

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**Nadi Airport lock-out**

Dear Prime Minister Mr Frank Bainimarama,

I am writing to you on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation representing 202 million workers in 163 countries to express our serious concern about the situation of workers locked out by Air Terminal Services (ATS) for over one month.

ATS provides ground handling at the Nadi International Airport and employs 250 workers who are members of the Fiji Trades Union Congress (FTUC) affiliated Federated Airline Staff Association (FASA). Workers hold 49 per cent of the shares of ATS while 51 per cent belong to the Fijian Government. On 16 December 2017, management locked out workers for attending an emergency shareholders' meeting. Workers expressed concern over the 11-year wage freeze at the company as well as numerous additional grievances concerning their working conditions and sexual harassment.

ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association protects workers' right to organise and to participate in meetings as well as the right to freedom of opinion and expression. We therefore denounce the retaliatory actions undertaken against the workers for exercising their right to express their views on occupational matters collectively.

We call on your government to ensure that workers are immediately allowed to return to work and receive back pay for the entire lockout period. In addition, management should agree to enter into good faith negotiations over the unacceptable wage freeze and the longstanding workplace grievances.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary