

17 Gaji Road  
Samabula.

The Chief Executive Officer  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Government buildings

Dear Sir,

AN OFFENCE ABOUT TO BE COMMITTED

Duty

1. It is the duty of every Officer and soldier of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), in accordance with RFMF Standing Orders Volume One Part XXI Section 1 para 21.4 "to notice and to repress or report any negligence or impropriety of conduct on the part of Officers and soldiers."

Interview

2. I was interviewed by the Commander RFMF, Commodore Josua Vorege <sup>BAWIMALEAMA</sup> in his office at Headquarter RFMF, on Thursday 18 December 2003, with regards to my position, in relation to his intent, he discussed during his conference that day. As I sat down, he told me that there are people in Government, who are trying to destabilize our country and also there are civil servants, who want him removed, as Commander RFMF. He further stated that Government wants him removed. He told me, that he had made himself clear at the conference and at other previous conferences of his intention to remove Government. I told him that his intention against Government, is clear to me. He went on to tell me, that the military must not only carry out what is legal, it must also carry out what is moral. And, since Government is trying to remove him as Commander, by not extending his contract, he will remove Government using the military. Then, he asked me where I stood with his intent.

3. I told him, that I shall never support him, if he wants to remove Government. Further, I advised him that he ought to be

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upright, as God is in control of everything and that he had done well by putting the soldiers, who were guilty of offences relating to the events of 19 May 2000 in prison. And then I told him, that what he is intending to do, is exactly the same thing the soldiers involved in May 2000, are in jail for. I told him he must not do it, since the weak and the ~~disadvantaged~~ <sup>poor</sup> <sup>with</sup> be more disadvantaged and that our country will spiral down into chaos and despair.

4. He told me, that he will get support from the Non Government Organisations, International Communities and the Diplomatic Corps. And that, some officers are formulating contingency plans, for his intent.

5. I made it very clear to him, that removing Government unlawfully is wrong and I shall not be party to it and that I shall never support him, but the institution.

6. He then told me, not to be involved with the planning team and to keep clear.

### Offence about to be committed

7. Reporting the Commander Rfuf, for an offence is not easy. But as he had openly discussed, in his conferences and was has interviewed me in his office, asking of my position, towards his intent, to remove Government using the military, his action is improper, and to me, in my professional opinion, he is in the province of impropriety of conduct and ought to be reported.

8. I am doing my duty to Rfuf and my country in reporting this impropriety of conduct, by Commodore Bainimarama; fully aware of the consequences, he might take against me and my family. But, I am calm as I report this offence to you, as a superior officer and especially when Commodore Bainimarama, by all indications is serious in carrying out his intention.

### Indications of his seriousness

9. At the annual, end of the year Officers and Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs and SNCOs) get together at the Sergeants' Mess; Commodore Bainimarama told us that, 2004 will be

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a difficult year and that our individual loyalty to him, will be put to the test. In his reciprocal speech, a warrant officer class one stated "ua vanna o laka kina keimani ua laka kina, ua vanna o mate kina keimani ua mate kina."

10. Recent visitors for Commodore Bainimarama to HQ AFMF, included a senior legal officer and a senior official of an NGO.


11. In December 2003, contrary to proper procedures AFMF purchased large quantities of uniforms (greens and blacks) bedding and eating utensils. The total AFMF over expenditure in 2003 is \$21 million. After taking into account the unbudgeted expenditure on; COLA, assistance for Cyclone Ami, etc. our over expenditure is about \$12 million. Included in the over expenditure is the unpaid expenditure of \$2.8 million.

12. At the Commander's conference on 14 Jan 04, he immediately referred to the AFMF Chief of Staff's (COS) advice to him, on his intent (copy attach). He was disappointed with the advice, and stated that he had relieved his COS, and that all senior officers involved in the advice, were to take all their outstanding leave (copy attach of directive attach). He further stated that since those officers do not support him on the path he is going to take AFMF through, ~~we~~ <sup>they</sup> must do the honourable thing and resign, as individual leave expires. He further stated, he only tested us in his interview and that he will not put pressure on us to resign.

13. I submit to you this report of an offence about to be committed by Commodore Bainimarama with much concern for AFMF and my will to remain professional, with my conduct.

I remain,

Professionally yours

  
 SAMUELA VELEPE RADUWA  
 (Samuela Velepe Raduwa)  
 Lieutenant Colonel

13 January 2004.

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