



# FIJI HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

GPO Private Mail Bag  
SUVA, FIJI ISLANDS

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## **Press Statement – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007**

Dr James Michael Anthony, consultant, has been appointed by the Fiji Human Rights Commission to conduct an **Inquiry into Media Freedom and Independence in Fiji.**

The Inquiry's general Terms of Reference are attached.

Dr Anthony is well - known in Fiji as the leader, with Mohammed Apisai Tora, of the December 1959 Oil Workers' Strike. He was also subsequently the Chief Union spokesman at the arbitration proceedings in 1960 before Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Mr Said Hasan and D.M.N. McFarlane.

Dr Anthony has a doctorate in political science and has published widely in the area of political economy of small island states, including political economy of the media. In 1964 Dr Anthony completed a thesis titled Constitutional Change in Fiji. His PhD (ANU) thesis, Urban Politics in Malaysia: A Case Study of Kuala Lumpur is highly regarded. Dr Anthony's most recent book is Sex Across the Colour Line: A Neglected Topic in Pacific History- the Case of Parbhudia aka Minnie Wilkinson and Sir Henry Scott, Fiji Institute of Applied Studies, 2007.

In the 1970s, Dr Anthony worked closely with eminent Australian and New Zealand statesmen and judicial figures as private and press secretary. For example he was press secretary to the Minister for Repatriation, Compensation and Social Security in Australia's Whitlam Government. He has also worked with former New Zealand Prime Minister and currently Chairman of the New Zealand Law Reform Commission, Sir Geoffrey Palmer, as well as with Sir Owen Woodhouse, then a leading member of the NZ Bar and Judiciary.

Currently, Dr Anthony is Executive Director of Hawaii-Laieikawai Association Inc., a non-profit corporation which has a general environmental and cultural mandate. Popular culture, including media representation in cultural contexts, is a specific mandate of Dr Anthony's organization.

Dr Shaista Shameem  
**DIRECTOR**