

TWENTY FOURTH WITNESS
STATEMENT BY 20771 LT-COL METUISELA MUA

Col Mua, after having been duly sworn by solemn affirmation, was interviewed as follows:

Q1: When did you enter Parliament Complex?

A: I was there on the afternoon of the 19th May, maybe 2.00 o'clock in the afternoon after the people have stormed Parliament. I went to Parliament for a different reason. That Friday I was doing community work for our church in the morning, and after paying the labourers I overheard on the radio when I returned home that some people have stormed Parliament using arms and the Government had been taken over.

The fact that they were using arms was a concern to me, so I went down to the FBC and listened to the transmission to be able to ascertain just how the takeover was done, knowing that they had recordings of whatever transpired on that day so I asked them to replay it for me which they did.

I was still there when the General Manager overheard that I was in the Complex and he asked me to come and have coffee with him. We were having coffee when two of the journalists told the Chief Executive that there was a big rampage in downtown Suva. All this time, I thought that it was the Opposition that had undertaken this coup so I asked Isireli if I could use his telephone to get to the people in the Opposition Office in Parliament. The two reporters went out and came back in less than ten minutes to say that there was a big rampage in town. I tried to get Ratu Inoke on the phone and I was told that he was at a meeting, so I asked Isireli, "Look, would you please clear a line because I would like to go down to Parliament and see if I can get Ratu Inoke to make an appeal on the air to stop people from destroying the town, and I was also concerned that there were people at Parliament with arms. I just wanted to find out who were the people in Parliament with arms. That was why I arrived at 2.00 o'clock or so in the afternoon of Friday. Isireli Kini allowed me to travel with two of their reporters. Some distance away from the main gate, I met people there, they were scared and frightened of course.

As soon as I walked up to the main gate, I recognised some of the soldiers there. From the way they handled the weapons, I knew that they were servicemen and the type of weapons they had indicated that they were from the military. I asked, "Can I go to see the people in the Opposition Office, please?". They opened the main gate, paid compliment as usual, (I did not know who their names were), and allowed me to go into the Parliament Complex to see the members of the Opposition.

As soon as I walked into Ratu Inoke's Office, the Opposition Members were there including Speight's father, Vunibobo, Manueli, Ah Koy and the two ladies; they were still under house arrest when I walked in. I asked to see Ratu Inoke but he was busy having a meeting with someone else. When he came out, I told him, "Would you please make an appeal because Isireli has kept a direct line open for you to make an appeal to the public to stop this rampage in town?". He asked whether there has been a rampage, I said, "Yes, the whole town is gone." It was then when Manueli and Ah Koy came and told me what occurred in Parliament. He asked, "What is happening here?" He started complaining about the CRW. That is how I knew that this was a CRW squad because Manueli started complaining to me, "I've told Epeli Ganilau to disband the Unit. See what it has done to us" etc, etc. They were trying to work out just how they were going to get organised in order to try and diffuse the situation, whatever that that they could have done. They asked me, "What is going to happen next?" I said, "Who are these people who are doing these things?" Someone said, "He is someone by the name of 'Speight'". Speight's father came straight to me and he said, "Those fellows are very young, why don't you go and do something about it? I said, "What should I do, I wouldn't know what to do, I've got nothing to do with those people." We were talking amongst ourselves and they mentioned what they planned to do was agreed to generally and that was for two of their members to go to Government House and say, "Look, this has happened, could you please just dissolve Parliament for the time being until we find out the solution." That was generally what they were talking about.

They were still going through that when one of the representatives from Speight's people came and said, "Would all of you please come and attend the meeting which is being held at the Government Office?" We went across as directed by Speight's men.

I went and sat right at the back and listened. I saw Major Ligairi walk in; some of the people at the meeting I knew and some I did not know. That was the first time I was exposed to those people at that time in the afternoon. They were discussing the various steps that they were going to take. After awhile, Major Ligairi walked out and I also walked out with him; and we had general discussions with him and he confirmed to me that they were his boys from the Army camp.

At that point in time, I visited Parliament regularly, almost on a daily basis but sometimes, I missed out on a couple of days and then I came in again. That is how it all started until we had a team from our side which was meeting with the RFMF team and that was almost a continuous activity. We started talking, negotiating, etc.

Q2: What was your work or your main function inside the Complex? I understand that you were part of the liaison team, what was your main function?

A: I was just part of their team and because of my exposure in Government I existed in an advisory capacity. I have told them many times over and over again that I would like to ensure that people exercise rational and balanced decisions at all times.

Q3: You eventually ended up with an advisory role?

A: Yes, in an advisory capacity.

Q4: At any time, were you part of the Operation Cell that was operating within there?

A: No.

Q5: Were you aware of the different wings, sectors or groups in there in Parliament?

A: They were there.

Q6: What were they?

A: As a military man, your mind starts to work when you come across a situation like that. You see people walk in, people doing things. I see that the people were mostly doing just sentry duties and the security of the premises there, security of hostages and security of personnel. Those were mainly what they were doing.

Q7: We have one indication earlier that there were three different wings, the military wing, the political wing and the vanua wing; three different sectors. Can you confirm now the leaders of the different wings? We had earlier indications that Ligairi was heading the military wing, political wing really was George Speight and in charge of the vanua wing was really Duvuloco in conjunction with the various yasanas. Were you aware of those wings?

A: I was aware that these things existed in a very loose arrangement except for the military. That was a very tight arrangement, I can assure you that but the others were very loose. That there was a vanua, yes; that there was a political wing, yes but then there were politicians coming in and out of the Complex almost on a daily basis and they come from all sorts of political parties with their agenda and objectives.

The only people that were keeping a tight arrangement over there were the military as far as I was concerned. The vanua was very very loose. Duvuloco ran away, he was not the head of the vanua. What had happened they had a representative from each yasana and they had regular meetings, and of course, one must also understand that the place was crowded with

visits from different communities, villages, groups, political parties, tikinas, etc. I estimated that the total number (because I was going through the books merely to find out) that had visited the Complex on the duration of the stay in Parliament excluding the burial, just for visits alone, was between 130,000 to 140,000 people.

They came from the West, Bua, Macuata, Cakaudrove, they came from Suva, Naitasiri, Tailevu and then the tikina visits, the koros, the villagers, church groups, political parties, etc, and that is a very conservative estimate. About 130,000 to 140,000 people came to support those in Parliament and the police are going to have a very hard time trying to get all those people as supporters of the coup.

Q8: During the whole stint in the Parliament Complex, were you involved in any of the activities that were happening outside the Parliament Complex? We understand your indications of what was happening within the Complex, security, the different sectors within the Parliament, the vanua, the military, the politicians coming in and out; all the activities that happened outside based on the political situation from within the Complex, were you responsible or were you aware of any of the activities that happened outside the Parliament Complex, be it in the Suva area or throughout the whole of Fiji?

A: Is that specific?

Q9: You understand what had happened, the rampage at the TV Station, we had the shooting of the police officer?

A: Oh no. The only thing I heard of the shooting of the police officer was when they came to me afterwards for me to arrange with the people in Parliament that the parents want to visit to say that; one, they have forgiven; and two, that they support the cause because my sister in law who is older than my wife is from that household. She is married to that household so she came and asked me if I could do that arrangement which I did, and they all came down. The whole thing was done. There was a burua, there was a tabua which was the usual Fijian protocol - the full works were done. It was a special occasion where the parents and the family came all the way down from Navala in Ba. They even spent the night with us, we had a service before they went back.

Q10: You were not aware of the planning of those activities whatsoever?

A: No, no.

Q11: Whilst in the Complex, were you in contact with any of the persons within the Military in regards to activities of people in the Complex? This is not normal everyday conversation with the Operations and other things to ask

- questions but other things apart from that, like assisting the cause. Was there a link person that you were having discussions with in the Military?
- A: Along that nature?
- Q12: Yes, like passing on information to you on what is happening at the camp - along that nature?
- A: I was up to date with what was happening at the camp because I was part of the negotiating team right through to the signing of the accord. I was there and went up to QEB, PTC, we went to OTS in Vatuwaqa, we went to Ratu Iloilo's place so we went all over the place, so since from day 1 I have been part of the negotiating team, just listening in and negotiating with the RFMF officers but for the other officers, if you are trying to find out whether some of those guys have something to do with the events of the 19th of May, I know them, yes.
- Q13: You are aware but you are not releasing any names?
- A: No, because the guys that met with those guys in the RFMF all of them told me; this guy, this guy, this guy and his family, this guy, this guy
- Q14: These were the persons?
- A: Senior officers of the army.
- Q15: These are not those who have voiced their opinion - okay, we support the cause. The question is, those who were working directly with you?
- A: Not with me, with the people. I found this out later and it is unfortunate. Why should I be in this situation. I actually know nothing about it except that I was there on the afternoon of the 19th with a very genuine reason, when there were people who have been meeting since June, July, August of last year.
- Q16: You are aware of people who have been meeting from last year in regards to this?
- A: Yes, I am aware because the people that meet with them told me.
- Q17: You had indicated, from July last year?
- A: Yes, people have been meeting with these people, these group, have lunch here, have coffee here at so and so's house - disgusting.
- Q18: This information you are not willing to release?
- A: No, I have taken the appropriate measures to ensure that it is protected but I am just wondering what kind of officers they are.
- Q19: On the 19th May when you walked in, that was your first involvement?

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A: Yes, I have never been a member of any political party by virtue of my employment or my profession but since early last year (you can find that out from FBC), I think it was June when I had a lengthy interview with Pareti which has got my assessment because they kept bothering me for my assessment on the political situation in Fiji. I told them in no uncertain terms that after a very brief period, that there were indicators that have emerged over the horizon which spelt out just total chaos for Fiji but he wanted me to elaborate, I said, "No, and I am not obliged" but I only quoted one incident but there were so many as time went on. I said, "Look, do you know that it is less than four per cent that had voted for Labour, this is the ethnic Fijians". If the policies of the Government are not favourable to them they will ask and they will react and that is natural and when that comes about, that is trouble, and it did not take very long for them to disagree with the policy, they disagree with this, they disagree with that, there are Bills that have been put before Parliament, etc, etc and they started reacting but no one read it. Our unit has been terminated but if they had heard and taken heed of our assessment, nothing like this could have happened, for us it is a very unpopular profession because you have to tell them the truth and it hurts, but we were prepared to do that. We did it for Rabuka, he ignored it; we wanted to do it for Mahendra Chaudhry but he said "No, out you go!", because there were so many indicators that were there. In a situation like that, you look for the indicators and then you verify that from independent sources and then you do your evaluations, etc. It is not so difficult but people just totally ignored until we have come to a situation like this.

Q20: During the whole period while you were in there, you remember your Unit - the former FIS Unit, there is one indication that you were using personnel from that Unit for your information gathering within the Complex and using those, some of them operating from within and the rest operating from without, operating from outside but using that as part of your information gathering, you normally would have done in the FIS. The question is, did you actually use that medium in there?

A: I know better than to do that. I know the risks involved. In any case I never asked them for any assistance. The only thing is, the indications that were given to me on the very first day, that Friday that the army was going to come down so I rang those people and said, "Can I use one of your radios", and they placed the radio there until we went away. I used the radio only on one occasion, that is it, I then switched it off because it cannot monitor VHF and UHF that you are using.

Q21: Throughout the whole event, the reports of your staff Naita walking in and providing information to the Complex and also walking in and setting up the communication within the complex. Were you aware of that?

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- A: That is what I have just said because I was under the impression that the army was going to come down and he did that on the very second day, on Saturday, and when he left he never came back, and it was useless anyway because, as I said, it was an HF monitor. People were using the VHF and UHF but then as time developed the army did not turn up as earlier indicated to me.
- Q22: Were there indications or some assurances that the RFMF will come to support the cause?
- A: Yes.
- Q23: What led you to this belief or who gave you that assurance?
- A: I was sitting across from Major Ligairi when he was talking to officers in the RFMF and that was why it appeared on the Gazette that Ulaiasi Vatu was to be the Commander and Tarakinikini was to be the Chief of Staff because both of them have said "Yes" to Ligairi, and then Ligairi also had the courtesy of advising Tuatoko, so everyone knew.
- Q24: You were there when Ligairi made the call?
- A: Yes, I was there.
- Q25: Inviting Col Vatu to become the Commander?
- A: Not inviting Col Vatu, he spoke to Tarakinikini. He said that he had already spoken with Col Vatu and that was what had happened. I was there when they were making calls on that afternoon.
- Q26: A lot of information we already have. We are just confirming these things. Are you aware of the date?
- A: It is in the gazette. It was on Friday night, 19th May. I went home fairly late because I had been drinking yaqona with the police officers who were sitting outside the gate. I knew it was Friday because by the time when I came back on Saturday, they were trying to do two things; one, they were trying to swear-in people to their appointments; and two, they have written a gazette notice up to that effect, the appointment of Commander and Chief of Staff.
- Q27: Where were you arrested?
- A: I was arrested from my home, I was sick. The last time I left Kalabu was when the Qaranivalu invited all the people to go to Kalabu to finish off from there, because of the pressure that was building up in Parliament, their farewell service and their usual Fijian protocol, vakavinavinaka etc. The last time I was at Kalabu was when I attended the Sunday afternoon service, then I left Kalabu. That was the Sunday before the 27th that would be the 23rd.
- Q28: When you were arrested, did they give you any reasons?

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A: No. I had been listening to the radio that people were being arrested willy nilly, left, right and centre so they came for me. I said, "I'm sick, you want me to come?" They said that from Operations that they have some matters to discuss with me. That was all that they said, so I was in my pyjamas and everything when I went into QEB as if I was going to run away. There were four vehicles altogether with armed soldiers, it was unbelievable. If they had told me to come, I would have come.

Q29: This whole process of negotiation and mediation that transpired in the whole event of May 19, could the RFMF could have done something to better the whole situation?

A: Definitely yes, many things.

Q30: Would you like to elaborate on that; what are some of the ways in which you could have better those things?

A: Yes, I thought that they were trying to apply certain principles, which were imported into Fiji in order to diffuse a situation. I believe that here we have the best reconciliation system in the world, use the Fijian protocol system, that is it. It would have been done in less than two days. Even that which is being done now, to try and ask them for forgiveness is difficult because they totally ignore, it is just unbelievable. The easiest reconciliation system and the best we have but they ignored that and they wanted to use those that were imported. The Army was consistently trying to apply a military solution to a political solution. It could have been avoided.

Q31: You indicated that the function of the military is very clean, not your exact word but very organised?

A: Yes.

Q32: You were part of the negotiation team. It was in the papers that when it initially happened, it was quite specific, the angle at which the negotiation team was coming from. In the initial discussions when the negotiating team sat and discuss, this were the papers, there were allegations on both sides by the Parliament Group and the Camp. The Camp were given the indication that the Parliament Complex group came with ever changing demands on discussions with members in the Complex, they said it was the other way round. Was that so, and if so, was it coming from the political wing (with George and the group) or it was the influence of the vanua. I am just confirming something that have already been told to us, and we just to confirm that now?

A: The ten resolutions of the GCC, it says, yes, give them amnesty; two, we support Ratu Mara; three, George Speight's team some of them to take part in the new line up, etc, and the 10th one, leave the door open for further negotiations if it is deemed necessary, and that was what kept the

negotiating team not only talking to the army but also talking to the subcommittee from the GCC and on that Sunday, 28th, we had agreed on all those things, we had finished. We wanted Ratu Mara to have an honourable exit, takes about two years, and we asked for that specifically because we did not want to violate the GCC resolutions. Three, we wanted to put up a list of names for the line up of the new administration, etc. That was on Sunday, and the subcommittee of the GCC went and waited on the Monday morning before coming back to us to confirm all these things to be taken up to the President. That was Sunday, 28th. On the 29th, the army came back to say that they have abrogated the Constitution, they have removed the President, and they have done what they wanted to do and they invoked martial law so who abrogated the Constitution? The army. Who removed the President? The army, etc.

It is going to be a very funny situation when this comes out clearly. When you say that we are being influenced, no that is wrong. We had agreed with the GCC's resolutions totally. We were following that relying on the subcommittee of the GCC when instead the army went ahead and did all these things. We were surprised, we were shocked. We told them, "Who told you to do that?" They said, "We've done this for you!". We said, "No, that is contrary to the GCC's resolutions and immediately following that, they turned around and said, "No, they disobeyed the GCC, they violated that". I do not understand what you are talking about Mr. President, I am sorry. Are you sure with your facts?

Q33:

Yes!

A:

You better recheck.

Q34:

That was a question, whether they were influenced by the vanua?

A:

Well, I have answered your question.

Q35:

I wanted your perspective of that?

A:

You know they have been blaming me for being disloyal to Ratu Mara. I said, "Never have I been disloyal to Ratu Mara, never in my whole life".

Q36:

The question that was posed was; the two things that came out in the media was: one, the complex personnel was ever changing; and two, the army was ever changing; can you clarify that point?

A:

Are you relying on the media?

Q37:

No, this is a point of discussion. All our discussions we will verify with Special Branch and we will come out with the facts.

A:

Well if it is the fact that you get from the Special Branch, Mr President, I am sorry because they were the ones who fabricated the threat on the

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President (Ratu Mara). I know that because I wanted to know where the threat came from when we were there in good faith relying on the subcommittee of the GCC on Sunday, when instead there was a threat that went through on the Monday morning, so I went for Joe Brown and Joe Brown said that it came from the Special Branch.

Q38: This threat that you are talking about, is this the threat where?

A: The threat that said that the people from the Complex were going to shoot Ratu Mara and his family, something like that so they have to find ways of removing Ratu Mara.

Q39: What we are doing now is we are trying to piece together information that we gather. We will visit the Special Branch and all other avenues. Being under the trade, the Board and you will understand the reliability of some information but we will sit and value that and we will check the reliability and where the source is coming from. We all know that allegations were going from left, right and centre. Threats were going from all sectors of the world. In our investigations we hope we can find the truth.

From your point of view where you stood in the Complex, we have a number of people who came before you confirming what you have just said, you do understand where we are coming from?

A: Yes, I appreciate and respect that

Q40: Looking back at this event of May 19th, what future can you think of this Unit; should it be revived to foresee and provide the information needed and basically forecast such events in the future. We know what your answer is going to be but we want it to come from you.

A: Let me put it this way, if I may say so; that skill you cannot do without in the Government, in the Military, in the Services because it gives you just that little edge to be able to look into the future. Anyone who is good and is worth his salt should be able to do a lot more than that, to help policy makers. He is not supposed to be influenced by emotions. He does not allow his emotions to overrule his judgement so he must exercise good judgment and make a very balanced assessment of a given situation and give it to the policy makers. Policy makers can discard it, throw it away or whatever, that is their prerogative but at least the man has done his job, and he has done it honestly, and he has given him an opportunity to be able to have consideration of whatever the incident, whether it be political, economical or social. The answer is, yes there is a need but building up of skills is not easy. In this profession we are always continuously very suspicious of everyone all the time. To establish rapport, it takes about two or three years or even five years. It depends on the situations. It can never be achieved overnight.

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The Director Generals of Intelligence Organisations can ring you and talk to you from New Delhi, Washington, Canada, Wellington, Kuala Lumpur or even from Israel, they can talk to you only if you have their trust but that is difficult and is built-up over a long period of time. There is no where else in the world where you can do that. Yes, it is essential.

Q41:

This is probably propagation that has been going on in the media. The personnel who were in the Complex - my question is more directed to the Military, their medium of putting press releases; how do you think it has affected the whole reconciliation process?

A:

I would have thought that the military are the champions in Psy-war, they should know and they should understand because it all depends on the audience, the time, the theme and all those things. If it is wrong, if a man who does it does not take those things into consideration then you are going all over the place but I would assume that maybe in future, the military should develop a good PR Unit or a PR man who is qualified, not only from a straight-out journalistic perspective but who understands the military way of operations, like psy-war, they should be able to do an effective job.

Q42:

One of the other major concerns is the weapons that have not been accounted for, they have been missing. Would you be able to shed light on that, if you know of any weapons that are out there or you could assist us in retrieving these weapons?

A:

At the moment, I do not know where the weapons are but with assistance, yes. Assistance is no problem because there is a bond between the people that have been in Parliament and the supporters who are all around Fiji. I do not know whether you believe that or not but there is a bond up to this point in time. That little seed has grown and expanded and it is there and it is up to everyone who is reasonable to be able to say, "Okay, use that channel and get the weapons from the rebels (whatever you want to call them)." It is just a matter of telling the people, "Please return the weapons".

Up to this point in time, unfortunately, there is some mistrust, we shouldn't have that but if the people that have been in Parliament go back to those people, I am sure that they will oblige, because say for instance, I do not know for other families, my family has been threatened many times over by service personnel, not so much from civilians but from service personnel. I feel very sad and upset about it.

My family has been supplied food which is almost unbelievable, about four or five times a week and that is almost every day. They have given them money, my relatives - yes, supporters who just come by taxis, come,

drop the food, groceries, they do not even know them, which tells you that there is a bond. All I am trying to say is that, they have established a bond and if you want to use that, and I think that is a much neater and a quicker way of getting things done. Just get the people, "Please, appeal to the people, 'please, can you return all the weapons', 'please, can you come down', 'no more damage, please'". Those people in the rural areas, they are still trying to go into Indian houses, etc, they can be told, "Don't do that", and that is what I have done for a number of times in Parliament, just calm them down, ask them politely, and they follow.

Q43:

You said that the whole objective of being there was to ensure that rational decisions were made. In order to do this, you must be a member of several groups within the Parliament Complex. You have already mentioned that you were part of the negotiation group. Were you also part of any other groups apart from that?

A:

No, I have been part of the negotiation group or the negotiating team, and I always feel very embarrassed when you go up or you get a ring from the Operation Centre saying, "Hey, these people are doing these things." You know you really really feel upset about that. Some times, at an average, nothing less than 600 people; that is the minimum. Sometimes it goes right up to 2,000 that are there in the Complex at any one time and very quickly, it is not so difficult because they are all isolated into their different yasanas to look for someone, "Oh this man is so and so from such and such" and you go and ask them "Where is this guy?"

For example, this throwing of stones, objects, houses and the rampage in Veiuto area, that was when one of the guys was shot. It was Friday night. There was a foot patrol I think by the engineers because our chaps that were on the hill could see them walking down and they were calling out, "Hey, Staff Ramasima, sa maca na noqu dakai", but they were just looking down at them. The Engineer patrol had already fired the shot that wounded one of the civilian guys. That Friday night, the guy was rushed to hospital and we were very concerned. I said, "Look, don't do this any more. Do not allow people to go out at night because we are getting a very bad name for it. If anyone else is found doing that then we will invite the guy never to come back here" so they were called, martialled by their elders, they were identified, there were 12 of them and they were given corporal punishment by their elders; so things like that happen. It is a very difficult situation when the vanua was involved and there were so many people around.

Q44:

My next question is on the bond that you mentioned that you feel now exist and you said that the seed was sown in Parliament. Do you feel at any time when you were in the Complex, with your training of course that

the seeds that were actually sown were the seeds of a revolutionary idea, trying to be planted into these young men before they dispersed?

A: I have to correct that there was nothing revolutionary about it. I was talking about the seed of bondage, people were very close to each other. Normally, in a revolution you all know that you need leaders, planners and whatever else in a situation like that, but no, these are just people that come from the districts and villages. There is a bond between them that has been established. We have a common purpose. They said that they wanted to protect indigenous aspirations and rights. All these things they have in common. They wanted Fiji to become a Christian State, etc; all those things and to answer your question, there is nothing revolutionary about it. It is not a revolutionary organisation. That would have been better organised than what we had in Parliament.

Someone told me that that is how it is being assessed. I said, "No way in the world, I know how to do assessments like that." There is a seed of comradeship and also there were some people who for the first time have been able to associate with the Fijian way of life. The people from Wainibuka are related to the people of Matuku, etc and that bond had been strengthened.

Q45: On the current operations, you have already mentioned that some very senior officers were actually involved in assisting with what happened on May 19th. Do you feel that the current operations by the army has been done deliberately to either prolong the situation (which means that you will stay here for a much longer time) and also to ensure that the people that you know who were involved with what is happening to make sure that they also are not revealed?

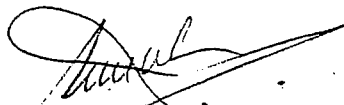
A: The answer to that Major, unfortunately, would be yes, it is unfortunate. I have to repeat that I cannot disclose names because the names would involve, not so much about the people in the army but the people that they have met from outside of the army. Any intelligence officer who is worth his salt would want to find out who those senior people are, particularly with the developments of events when people were expected to come down, etc then people came and offered information, "I met so and so", "We had lunch with so and so" or "We went out to an isolated area because we did not want people to see or overhear what we are talking about", "We had coffee till the early hours of the morning in so and so's house because of this" etc, etc, it went on and on and on. I just wish people would be more honest. I detest people who are dishonest.

Q46: Col Mua, before we release you, we are done with you but the Board will come back some time next week and if we need to ask you more questions, we will recall you. But if you are not one of those who are to

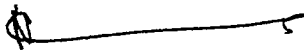
be recalled, if you do have a point when we come, please make it known to us. As soon as we will come back here some time next week, we will have to indicate whom we want to see. Do you wish to say anything else?

A:

I have said most of the things that I would like to say but perhaps if you want me to answer more questions later on. Some of the matters that were being discussed in Parliament, topical issues that we talk about, I think they should be of interest to the army and the government of the day, but that can be done later, they are not strictly related to these things although it relates to some future undertakings.



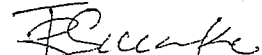
[M. MUA]
Lieutenant-Colonel



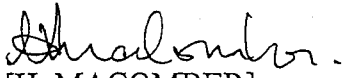
[J. N. B. EVANS]
Lieutenant Colonel
President



[A. MOHAMMED]
Major
Member



[T. GUCAKE]
Major
Member



[H. MACOMBER]
Warrant Officer Class One
Member

TWENTY-FIFTH WITNESS
STATEMENT BY 21663 MAJOR JOSEVA SAVUA

Maj Savua, after having been duly sworn by solemn affirmation was interviewed as follows:

- Q1: Major Savua, can you confirm the date when you went down?
A: 26th May.
- Q2: E rawa ni o ni confirm-taka na veitalanoa a caka e na Plant Troop ni bera ni dou vodo e na lori ?
A: Au qai march-in tiko on the 20th. Au march-in ga vei Maj. Waqanisau, 2IC Engineers Regiment, au sa mani mai tu ga e na Plant. Sa ka 26 ni siga ni vula ko Me sa lako mai kina ena brief mai cake ni sa vakarau storm-taki na Parliament. Au sa mani tukuna vei iratou na gone o ya, au sa vakarau lako sobu, meu lako ga meu lai tu loma o ya meu lai tu vata kei iratou na gone o ya, lai veivuke ga vei iratou. Sa oti sa mani so talega vei iratou na gone o ya sa bau vinakata me keitou lako vata, sa mani dua na lori ga e kea keitou kerea, sa mani kauti keitou sobu. Keitou lai sobu ga e na Marou Road, keitou takoso yani, keitou sa lako cake sara yani, o ya e na siga Vakaraubuka, na i ka 26 ni siga ni vula ko Me.
- Q3: Ena gauna dou veitalanoa kina o ya, dua na bose dou vakayacora se veitalanoa ga?
A: Sega, qo na veitalanoa ga, se tekivu tu mai e na siga Vakarauwai, na veitalanoa ga ni ka e yaco tu.
- Q4: E na loma ni Complex, na i tavi cava o ni qarava tu i loma o ya?
A: Au qarava tu ga i loma o ya na ka ga ni logistics; na kakana, na veivosakitaki ni transportation, na kedra kakana na hostages kei na lako yani ni Red Cross.
- Q5: Ni sa oti na nomuni lai curu e na Complex ena i ka 26 ni siga, a vica vata na ka e yaco. Oti o ya, bau dua na gauna tale o ni curu mai kina i tuba vata kei na so na civilian; o ni bau lewena e dua na i lawalawa e curu mai tuba?
A: Sega vakadua.
- Q6: Nomuni qarava tiko na logistics; bau dua na gauna o ni curuma kina na Operation Room?
A: Neitou gauna ga ni O-Group e na 8.00 na kaloko e na veimataka.
- Q7: O cei e liutaka tiko na Operation?
A: O Ligairi.

- Q8: Mai na loma ni Complex, bau so na gauna o ni dau veitaratara kei ira mai na keba?
A: E na keba, au veitaratara vakadua ga vei iratou na NATOPS, dau veivosaki ga vata kei iratou na dau duty. Vei iratou mai na ovisa, dau vakalevu ga niu veivosaki tu ga kei iratou na duty officers ena Joint Ops Centre.
- Q9: Gauna cava o ni qai biuta kina na Complex?
A: E na Vukelulu, 19th July.
- Q10: O ya o sa biuta vakadua?
A: Io.
- Q11: Ni o biuta na Complex, o qai gole i vei?
A: Ki na HQ Engineers. Oti ya, au sa lako mai ya i vale, au sa qai qiri cake i cake baleta na veidinadinati sa tu ena Muanikau Accord me keitou lesu tale i na keba. Au qiri au yani au via vosa vei Maj. Waqanisau, e tauvimate o koya, keirau mani veivosaki kei WO1 Waqanimaravu. Au kerea vei Waqanimaravu me kerea vei CO meu kauti iratou cake yani na cauravou e na siga Lotulevu.
- Q12: O kila na tiki ni siga?
A: 19th July.
- Q13: 19th o biuta na Complex?
A: Io, siga talega o ya au gole ki vale, oti toka vakalailai na 12 au qiri cake kina. Au arrange-taka gona na neitou lako cake yani, ia sa mani tukuna mai vei au o Waqanimaravu ni sega ni vakadonuya o CO Engineer, Lt. Col. Raravula, me keitou lako yani, sa qai mani qiri tale yani oko ya ni oti toka e vica na aua. Vakamacalataka ga yani oko ya vei au ni se qai oti nodratou O-Group qai sa mani tukuna oko ya me clear-taki mada mai na NATOPS na neitou lako yani, oti o ya au sa qai mani lai check i Kalabu e na gauna o ya. Au lesu mai vovoleka toka ni oti na 11 na kaloko ena bogi, ratou sa tukuna mai vale ni ratou sa qiri yani na Engr Ops, o Waqanimaravu. Au sa mani confirm-taka tale, au vosa vei S/Sgt. Ravuwai, mani tukuna o koya ni tukuna o CO ni sega ni via raici au, e via raici iratou ga na kena vo. Oti ga na kena mataka, au sa mani lesu tale ki Kalabu, au lai check tu ga i kea ena veisiga, yacova sara neitou vesu mai e na kena macawa ka tarava.
- Q14: O kila na tiki ni siga o a vesu kina?
A: Thursday, the following week, 27th July 2000.
- Q15: O ni a vesu ga i vale?
A: Sega, au a vesu mai Kalabu.

- Q16: Na gauna sa yaco kece kina na veika qo, nomuni sa tiko mai kea, o ni bau rogoca se o kemuni bau veitalanoa se veitaratara mai kei na dua mai na Mataivalu se e tiko i na keba?
- A: Sega.
- Q17: Na veitalanoa ko ya a caka mai Nabuni vata kei ira na cauravou, o ni a sureti ira na cauravou me ra lako sobu se a caka vakacava?
- A: Sega, au tukuna ga o au, "Au sa vakarau lako sobu. Au sa lako sobu meu lai join-taka Na Qase i ra meu lai veivuke vei iratou i ra, kevaka e dua na ka e yaco, I can be an extra hand, ia sa mani oti, ratou sa via lako talega o ratou o ya, au sa mani tukuna vei iratou, "Vakatau sara ga vei kemudou nomudou lako, I'm not forcing anyone to go down, it is your own personal will, if you want to go down, you go."
- Q18: Nomudou gole sobu o ya, e sega ni dua a qiri yani vei iko?
- A: Sega.
- Q19: O iko ga o sa via lako sobu?
- A: Io.
- Q20: Remember when you were in the Complex, after you had marched-in, there was an ultimatum put out by Commander that all the troops have to return back to camp, did you receive that information?
- A: We did not receive anything until late afternoon. E sega ni lako yani officially but announced over the radio, nothing official came.
- Q21: What was the reaction of the troops in the Parliament Complex?
- A: Even I myself collected the soldiers together, I told them, "Qo nomudou chance, sa tukuna mai o Commander mo dou lesu o koya sa via lesu" so I said to everyone, "The door is open to everyone. Those who want to go back can go back, oko ya ga e via tiko mai, tiko - so that was it.
- Q22: The food that was coming in, when you were in charge of logistics, distribution of food to the vanua, who was responsible for gathering those food?
- A: O ira sara ga na dui veisiko mai. People from the vanua all over Fiji, nodra veisiko yani e ra sa kauta sara ga yani na kakana dina kei na kena i coi.

- Q23: Did they pull it from somewhere in the Complex?
A: No, the food are brought in from outside by people from outside. Once the food is brought in, it is received by us in the normal Fijian tradition and it is shared amongst the province that are there.
- Q24: From the 26th May until when you were arrested has your pay been stopped?
A: My pay was just stopped from the first pay in July.
- Q25: Nomu tiko i loma, sega vakadua ni musu na i sau?
A: Sega.
- Q26: Were you given reasons for your arrest?
A: No.
- Q27: Na gauna o ni in-charge tiko kina e na logistics, bau dua e vukei kemuni tiko se o ni qarava duadua tikoga?
A: Keirau cakacaka vata tu ga kei Na Qase o Mala.
- Q28: Vakacava o Satini Tikotani?
A: Sega, o koya e nona vakadua ga na operation ni vanua, na nodra tauri vata tu ga me ra tikotiko vata.
- Q29: Na wasewasei ni kakana va o ya e sega ni qarava oko ya?
A: Sega. De matai beka ni macawa niu se bera yani a qarava tiko oko ya. Na gauna au sa yaco yani kina, ni qai wase na kakana va o ya, au sa qarava sara ga.
- Q30: Ia o koya e qarava tale e dua na ka?
A: Sa vakaitavi tikoga oko ya baleta na nodra qaravi tiko na lewe ni vanua.
- Q31: Nomuni tiko i kea, o ni bau raica ni caka tu na vuli vakaivalu se drill?
A: Na drill, e na kena i rairai beka mai tuba e nanumi ni form-taki tiko e dua na mataivalu. Na kena caka na drill me tauri ira vata ga na lewe ni vanua me rawa ni ra mai muria ka duavata e na ka e tukuni vei ira.
- Q32: Vakacava na weapon training?
A: Na weapon training ga au sega ni raica, se au bau kila ni caka tiko.

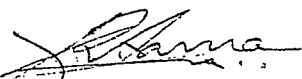
- Q33: Dau laurai tiko ni so e ra vaka civilian ia e ra vakaiyaragi tu; o ira o ya e ra civilian se sega?
A: Au sega mada ni raica baleta o iratou na dau yadra tiko e ratou vaka civilian tu ga.
- Q34: O ratou na IMS?
A: Io.
- Q35: E sega na civilian e soli vua na dakai?
A: Sega.
- Q36: O ratou na nomudou dou lako vata yani, o ratou dau yadra i vei; matamata i ra?
A: Eso vei iratou dau yadra i matamata, eso eratou yadra ena veivanua e assign-taki vei iratou me ratou yadra kina.
- Q37: Na engineers taucoko e lako yani, levu vei ira e ra security duty tu ga, so vei ira e ra yadra i liu, matamata i muri, e so e na yadravi ni parameter, e so e yadravi ira na hostages?
A: Io.
- Q38: O ratou na lewe ni IMS, e sega ni nodratou vakadua ga na hostages, e ratou veiwaseyaki talega vei iratou na nomudou e na yadra?
A: O ratou veivuke yadra tu ga i loma.
- Q39: You said that when you rang the Camp to go back, the CO did not want to see you; was a reason given?
A: No.
- Q40: What about the soldiers that went there with you, did they go back to camp?
A: Some of them went back because we contacted each other on that day, some went on Thursday and some turned up on Friday. Also they were told that the CO did not want to see them until we returned all the arms.
- Q41: The CO you are talking about is?
A: Raravula, Solo.

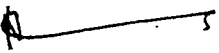
Q42:

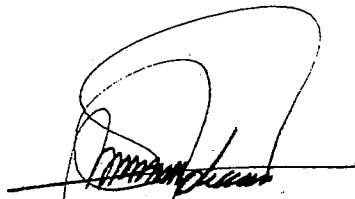
You left the Parliament Complex on the last day, were you aware of the burning of cars?


A:

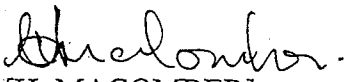
No.


[J. SAVUA]
Major


[J. N. B. EVANS]
Lieutenant Colonel
President


[A. MOHAMMED]
Major
Member


[T. GUCAKE]
Major
Member


[H. MACOMBER]
WO1
Member

TWENTY-SIXTH WITNESS
STATEMENT BY RATU T O SILATOLU

Ratu T. Silatolu, after having been duly sworn by solemn affirmation, was interviewed as follows:

- Q1: Mr. Silatolu, just a few questions from the Board. Nai matai ni taro, na ka me baleta na vuaviri, the first day the discussions was done with the soldiers, can you give the Board a brief outline of when were the soldiers firstly brought in?
- A: I met them in Parliament on the 19th.
- Q2: That is the first time?
- A: Yes.
- Q3: The other question is, on the 18th of May, eso na kit bags ea sobu mai na Parliament Complex ena FAP Office ea lai maroroi ikea. Eso na kato e vaka na kit bags.
- A: FAP Office ivei?
- Q4: FAP Office ena loma ni Parliament Complex. Nia tiko ikea ena gauna ea vakasoburi kina na kato ena ka 18 ni siga?
- A: Sega.
- Q5: Enai ka 18 ni siga, rauta na 2 na kaloko oti na vakasigalevu.
- A: We had the parliamentary sitting. I have no idea of that incident.
- Q6: Ea sega ni maroroi ena loma ni dua na office (na rumu ni photocopying) na uvi kei na yaqona i loma ni FAP Office?
- A: Sega, de Labour Office.
- Q7: Mr. Silatolu, o sa veikilai makawa tiko kei Bill Tikotani?
- A: Sega.
- Q8: E dua na gauna o bau drau veitalanoa kei so na turaga ni valu mai na Keba before May the 19th?
- A: Ena veigauna keimami sota. I met Naivalurua in one of the cocktail parties. Gucake - we have met a few times at RB. I have met Major Naivalu a few times. I met the Commander at the international games.

Q9: One week before?

A: No, I did not meet any of you one week before.

Q10: From May 19th onwards, did you get in touch with some senior officers at the military camp?

A: Naivalurua picked me up from Parliament and we went to the RFMF to start talks with the Commander. Official talks started when Tuatoko, Tarakinikini, Raduva and Caucau began at a three-day meeting at PTC. There were officers that I met during the crisis namely, Seruvakula, Buadromo, Evans, Hennings, Kaukimoce, Wong, Draunidalo, Kurusiga, Rabuka, Ganilau, Saubulinayau, Pickering, Moce, Lesi Korovavala, Waqanisau and so many others all through acquaintance and also through the course of the event.

Q11: Within the complex, ena gauna dou a tiko kina ena loma ni complex, was there an offer made to Col. Vatu and Lt. Col. Tarakinikini about the leading of RFMF?

A: Yes, I was just told to sign, na kena veivosakitaki au sega ni kila. It was for it to be gazetted and become law. I signed that being Prime Minister.

Q12: E dua na bose ea caka mai Tamavua, na old boys, ea tiko talega kina o Tarakinikini, did you attend one of those old boys meeting?

A: During the takeover period?

Q13: Yes.

A: Yes, I caught a cab to get there, we had grog and afterwards, Tarakinikini dropped me at home. I normally go in and out to do private business and check the family.

Q14: The nature of that?

A: Just trying to resolve this, everytime the talks break down, we get together to try and see avenues to correct it.

Q15: Also the nature of the talks with CO 3FIR?

A: We meet once in a while, he always call me to have grog with him at Muanikau and mainly to enquire about threats and check hearsays that might jeopardise or cause danger to his men on checkpoints. I also call him up to allow for my access through checkpoints like when I called him from home to allow me to go to Parliament to arrange for the release of the women hostages whom were released at midnight. CO 3FIR was the only officer I revealed this information to.

- Q16: You know the contact about operations and those in headquarters, the events that were going on?
A: Yes.
- Q17: Is there any indication at all that what was being done in the Parliament Complex had the support of the military?
A: I am one of the people that was directly talking to military personnel merely with regards to negotiations. When it breaks down, then I come in again and try and get the negotiations to come on again. The last meeting was with Qetaki, Tarakinikini and Col. Jerry Waqanisau. That was the last meeting before talks resumed and then the accord was signed.
- Q18: When the military took over, were you present when senior army officers came over to present their sevusevu?
A: No, I was not there, but I heard that they came. I was not in the complex.
- Q19: Did someone actually discuss with you that the military supported the cause?
A: Yes, they just said that soon there will be an amicable solution. Basically, that is what I got, I did not see anything going against it, but when talks were going on then it seemed to me that there were two directives coming out to the lower ranks and then the shootings and all that occurred.
- Q20: Let us clear this point. The only time you saw soldiers was in regard to everything that happened on the 19th and afterwards?
A: Yes, soldiers the ones over here.
- Q21: The 1FMS, ex CRW?
A: Yes.
- Q22: Those soldiers, the first time you came in contact with them was when you saw them in Parliament? You had no meetings or contact with them previously?
A: No, I did not even know they were soldiers.
- Q23: Were the soldiers ever offered any form of reward?
A: As far as I know, this is a Fijian issue. It sort of just blend in on that issue. I just know George from business contacts, when he asked me in Parliament to support the cause, I did not hesitate. After all the Government was taken, we cannot move back, either I joined and support or be held hostage and as Ratu Mara once said 'the house is burned down, shall I run away or help rebuild it?' that was what came to me at that time. To the best of my ability, I tried to resolve the issue with the military.

Q24: Mr. Silatolu, another point of clarification, there was a separation of leadership. One was the caucus, another was the vanua. Not all of those people in the yasana groups, the vanua, have discussions, not all the activities of the vanua was controlled or orchestrated by the caucus. Sometimes they went out on their own and did things on their own.

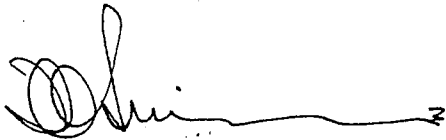
A: Yes, they came to dictate terms. Everyday we have a new list of people that should be in Government when we are trying to resolve issues with the military, they come up with new things. That basically is one of the things that distracted us from trying to resolve the issue and get over with it.

Q25: Basically, the caucus meeting, there is one indication that the loose arrangements, there was a military wing which was headed by Ligairi, the political wing headed by you lot and George and the vanua wing. Is Duvuloco an instrument there?

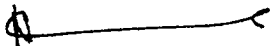
A: Yes, he is part of the group, the vanua.

Q26: He was just one of the leaders in the vanua group?

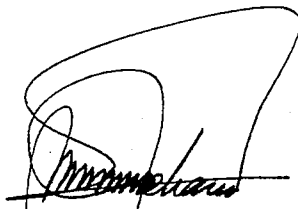
A: Yes.



[T. Q. SILATOLU]
Civilian - Former MP



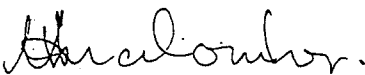
[J. N. B. EVANS].
Lieutenant Colonel
President



[A. MOHAMMED]
Major
Member



[T. GUCAKE]
Major
Member



[H. MACOMBER]
Warrant Officer Class One
Member

TWENTY-SEVENTH WITNESS
STATEMENT BY MR GEORGE SPEIGHT

Qualifying Clause

I, Ilikini Naitini, hereby state that the reason for giving my statement voluntarily to this BOI is in answer to its specific scope/terms of reference which is to inquire and ascertain reasons as to the CRW's involvement in the civilian coup of May 19th 2000. As I am not privy to the final report and its recommendations, I hereby state that any findings and comments including assumptions or otherwise pertaining to any subject outside of the stated terms of reference made known to me by members of the Board of Inquiry, are exclusively their views and my signed statement is not to be construed as implicit or implied support in any way whatsoever of the BOI's recommendations and comments.

Mr. G. Speight, after having been duly sworn on the Bible was interviewed as follows:

Q1: Mr. Speight, thank you for your willingness just to be here and to come before the Board or agreeing to come before the Board. The Board's main purpose is a fact finding situation where we have to find out about what happened and how everything else happened. We are really after the involvement of the soldiers in this whole event. In order to see the aspects of the soldiers involvement, we had to paint the whole picture and why things were done and at the end of the day, if we can, we will come to a conclusion of why things were done, how it was done and when and where. Basically, that is it, we should proceed from there after that on our findings, the headquarters will make the decision after that.

There are few questions that we have. The first question is the involvement of the CRW. Can you give us the date when you first met the CRW in relations to things that happened on the 19th and thereafter. When was the first meeting done?

A: On the 19th.

Q2: The place?

A: Suva.

Q3: Is it fair to say in the morning or afternoon? Sorry, it will have to be in the morning.

A: Absolutely, in the afternoon is way too late.

Q4: In the morning, was that meeting at the maritime slipway?

A: Correct.

Q5: That is the first time you met with the soldiers?

A: Yes.

Q6: Were there any discussions or any phone calls, or any meetings with any member of the IMS that was conducted prior to that?

A: What is the IMS?

Q7: Sorry, the First Meridian Squadron (IMS), they are referred to as the CRW.

A: No.

Q8: No meetings at all with anyone of them?

A: No. In fact, I did not even know that a CRW Unit existed until the 19th. I only learned three weeks after that they were actually also called the IMS.

Q9: On the morning of the 19th, did you make a call to Sgt. Tikotani to meet you?

A: Communications were made, but I will not go into the specifics as to who called who or what was said but obviously there were communications, that is how we all came to be in the same place at the same time.

Q10: Also present at the maritime, the meeting between members of the IMS and your group?

A: Just me.

Q11: The briefings were given by you?

A: Correct.

Q12: Prior to proceeding towards Parliament?

A: Yes.

Q13: Were there any other civilians with you?

A: They were all civilians.

Q14: To you?

A: Correct.

Q15: Sgt. Tikotani, you knew him before, you go to the same church?

A: Yes, we have an acquaintance through the same religion. Although I must point out that I am not a member of that denomination any more and I have not been for quite some time.

Q16: Mr. Speight, did you know Major Ligairi prior to the 19th?

A: No.

- Q17: Have you heard of him or his reputation?
A: No. In fact, I know very very few people in the Army except for those who I see in the papers, but otherwise a total stranger to me until less than an hour before the event.
- Q18: The very few people that you know in the Army, is one of them Lt. Col. Tarakinikini?
A: Never heard of him, never knew of him until the 29th of May in the evening when he visited Parliament with three others to inform us of their actions on the navy boat to do with the former President. But until that night, I did not know who he was.
- Q19: That is the night on the 19th?
A: No, on the 29th, martial law. That was the first time I met Tarakinikini when they came down to Parliament. In fact, I did not know any of the four who visited us on the 29th, that was the first time I had ever met anyone of them.
- Q20: You never heard of Lt. Col. Tarakinikini's name mentioned in the Parliament Complex?
A: Within the first 48 hours when there was discussions about Decrees being promulgated in relation to a new Commander and also a chief of staff, just names but otherwise I did not know who they were. These were recommendations made by Army people, I left that side to them.
- Q21: In the planning of the events of the 19th of May (the takeover in Parliament), were any of the IMS or army personnel involved with whoever did the planning?
A: I did not even say that I did a plan so you are pre-supposing all of that.
- Q22: Was there anyone from the military personnel involved before that?
A: I choose not to answer that, I will leave you in suspense, but I can confirm that for all the military personnel who were involved with me, I first met them all on the 19th with the exception of Tikotani who as I said, I knew from sometime back.
- Q23: In the complex, the military wing was headed by Major Ligairi, the political wing which was basically headed by you, and the vanua wing which was by the yasanas. Is it fair to say that the leadership there was Duvuloco or he had an influence in the leadership?
A: No, it was just vanua, basically chiefs. They came from all the 14 yasanas. There were many chiefs, too numerous for me to name who came during the 56 day period we were there, but during that time, they had their own meetings. We liaise with them, they had their views, what

should or should not take place, we obviously dialogue a lot but our goal was always the same. But Duvuloco is definitely not the leader.

Just to lay it straight, everyone who came to Parliament came after the fact, no one knew and I mean no one and that includes Commissioner Savua. The Commissioner is absolutely not involved and had no inkling of what took place, I did not even speak to him, none of us did. I would welcome the opportunity to go to his inquiry so I can lay the record straight for him. Everyone who came after, came out of support and curiosity and interest and the whole range of reasons why obviously people would come. All those who came with the political agenda came and stayed after I spoke to them and said that "your involvement can only be because it is non-political" in the sense of all the political parties that they each represent. If you come in, and you want to support because you support the wider interest point for indigenous Fijians, the cause not so much the Nationalist, SVT or FA or whatever it is agenda because no one throughout this whole thing (there is a lot of things being written in the papers about why I did about what I did), no one has actually asked me, I will lay it out in the fullness of time.

Essentially, all those who were there including all the people who are vanua people obviously if you vanua you will come, because you are very easy, because the coup is done on behalf of all our people, but if you are political, you are asked to leave your political affiliation at the door so people like Duvuloco whom you asked in terms of leadership, no because we did not encourage that. That is not what I wanted, we wanted people who came to give support in a non-violent way, all of the opportunistic crimes that took place as a result, those people has to answer for that. Yes, many chiefs were there, many vanuas, they organised themselves into their 14 yasanas, all that type of thing took place, that is well known.

Q24: The activities that took place within the complex, was it true at times you had activities by the vanua it was not part of your big plan? Some of the activities that were conducted

A: Like what?

Q25: Some of the shootings outside, like the Levuka incident

A: The shootings, which shootings?

Q26: The shooting of two of the 3FIR guys.

A: That took place around the complex.

Q27: Yes, all those ones.

A: To me, those incidents require individual inquiries of their own because I just cannot sit here and say, "Oh, they took place with or without my

concern". The fact is that there is a lot of extenuating circumstances and issues going on at that time which surrounded all those events. But I can say one thing for sure is that whilst we were in there, everyone who came to support and chose to stay of their own accord, to encourage that if they were to stay, it was because of passive support and not to engage in anything confrontation or that would sway the whole thing.

With regards to the shootings and all that, those are circumstances and events that it is a bit complex to explain. I never was there, none of us were there. I think that has to be the subject of separate inquiries really.

Q28: Basically, that actually what happened, that is a separate one altogether.
A: I know what took place from what was told to me but obviously not being there physically, then I can only speak from second hand information. For our information, we had the guys in charge of security, Mr. Ligairi and all those CRW boys. Their job was to secure the place. Amongst all of that, a lot of guys were doing their own thing.

Q29: Those activities that took place, the actual planning for it and mapping out the whole thing.
A: The shootings?

Q30: Yes.
A: I cannot say that they were planned.

Q31: Not the shooting, but the exact going out and also the ones in Korovou, Levuka and Labasa.
A: Like I have always said, I am on record publicly and on television saying, at that time you must recall, there was a big debate going on about whether we had the support of the vanua or not and we were constantly the subject of the Army's propaganda saying that we had no support whatsoever from the vanua. I think the culmination of all those events was around about the time when the interim administration was appointed, which we are still having discussions on an on-going basis and I was cautioning against it. I can put down all of those events around Fiji as to the vanua in their own way all be it illegally, they have in light of the circumstances showing that they in some way or form saw the authorities as being anti the objectives of the coup so they acted over their own volition. But if you are asking to find out whether we gave instructions from within Parliament for them to actually proceed with those types of events then that is not so.

Q32: When you walked in, an hour or so after that, quite surprising Major-General walked in
A: You are talking about Rabuka?

- Q33: Yes. Quite surprising that he is involved
A: To you?
- Q34: No. His involvement but did he knew before hand or was he
A: You should ask him, not me. I cannot answer on his behalf. But I think he has already quoted in the papers as having a set of point of view.
- Q35: Mr. Speight, were you at any time assured the support of RFMF as an institution towards this cause?
A: Yes.
- Q36: Would you be able to identify persons who pledged their support?
A: You are asking about what timing?
- Q37: Initially.
A: Initially when?
- Q38: After the events of May 19th?
A: Absolutely. I think your talks with Mr. Ligairi and some of the others will confirm that. I left the liaison with the barracks to them and I was assured, yes they would support. We waited and then we waited and we are still waiting and so is the rest of Fiji.
- Q39: Was there any specific person or persons who gave this assurance?
A: Quite a number. Since we are not in the court room, their names shall remain untold at this point in time. But obviously two names come to mind because their names were subject of Decrees that we gazetted within the first 48 hours of being there. That is well known to you but obviously the army camp was a hive of activity and discussions. You can take that as far as you guys like. Although I am aware that Bainimarama was out of the country at that time.
- Q40: After the events of May 19th, were you given any assurance also before?
A: I never spoke to anyone in the Army before the 19th.
- Q41: What about Army personnel outside the Army?
A: Never, no one. Providential influence made it all happen in the way that it did, that is the only way I can explain it. If you a skeptic, you will never accept it, but that is a fact.
- Q42: There was this incident involving you and your vehicle was shot at a checkpoint, has there been an inquiry or something like that?

A: No, I am still waiting. I think there were 7 of us involved. I am not happy about what happened on that check-point particularly after we just left Ratu Iloilo's house, following meetings with the Commander and Tarakinikini. I actually had called them up that evening and asked them, what the hell they were trying to prove. They said that it was an accident and that it should never have happened because in their words, they have given instructions to everyone that no one was to shoot anyone from Parliament.

Q43: Who was this conversation with?

A: Both, Commander and Tarakinikini on the evening of that shooting. They said that they will look into it, but I have never heard about what happened. It is obvious what Tarakinikini thinks because it was reported in the papers the next day. He said that we did not stop when told to stop. He said that we pulled a gun or some story like that. I am here to say that that is an absolute lie, but he has become quite good at that.

Q44: There was a statement you made on the papers, you commented on Lt. Col. Tarakinikini and you said "Do not let me open my mouth", what was in relation to?

A: When, me telling him?

Q45: I think it was reported in the media

A: That what?

Q46: A statement directed at Lt. Col. Tarakinikini

A: By me? I suppose you are starting to find out about it now, slowly but surely. We have not scrapped the tip of the iceberg yet.

Q47: I have not asked that question but someone will ask you why? Are you ready to give it now or you can give us a short version of it?

A: No, I will give it later for fear of being misunderstood.

Q48: Can I just ask a question?

A: Sure.

Q49: Mr. Speight, were you present in the Parliament Complex when the Army announced that they have taken over Government? The delegation from the Army I think came over to traditionally inform you that they have taken over.

A: We did not have any television in Parliament so I really did not know what took place until the evening they actually arrived there.

Q50: Can you reveal to the Board the words they said?

A: Obviously, for the first 10 days, the big question on our minds, are they coming or what? We were waiting so the manner in which they entered the scene took us all by surprise, but we were visited at about 9.30 at night, a group of four, Tarakinikini, Raduva, Tuatoko and Caucau. They arrived and asked to meet with us. We got together there and they gave their sevusevu to us and they came to express to us that they had fulfilled what we had wanted. It is the words, "fulfilled what we wanted" and I said, "What is that?". Then they said, "Firstly, we have gotten the President to step down." I was very shocked. They said, "Secondly, we have abrogated the Constitution." I said "That is the second time in 10 days this Constitution has been abrogated." They said, "Thirdly, we confirm that you have amnesty, full immunity." I said, "That is good. Again, that is the second time we have been given immunity. First by the GCC and now you guys." Then they said, "Fourthly, we have just imposed martial law." I said, "Wow, what is the meaning of that?" They said, "The meaning of that is: because Ratu Mara is now finished, Bainimarama is also the head of state." I said, "Okay, so what?". They said, "We want to talk about how we can get the hostages released." I was very shocked, quite frankly.

Q51: Were you shocked or happy?

A: No, I was quite shocked. I said, "Look, we have just finished four days of discussions with the GCC sub-committee, just this afternoon. We are supposed to meet again tomorrow and finalise the line-up following the GCC resolutions that it should be composed of some nominees from us." I told them, "For your information also, even though that I had decreed Ratu Jope Naucubalavu as President when the GCC committee came to see us, the first resolution that they made known to us was the fact that the GCC had confirmed support for Ratu Mara and Ratu Iloilo." That presented a discussion so after discussing, I said, "You know what our discussion ended up with?" They said, "No." I said, "Our discussion has ended up that we have accepted that Ratu Mara should come back as President, but that we have two Presidents, Ratu Jope and Ratu Iloilo. In fact, I have already approached him traditionally to stand down and he has said yes. Do you guys know that? We have agreed and now you are telling us that you have removed him and on top of that, you are trying to tell us that you did it because that is what we wanted." I told them, "You guys are crazy." I said, "No one has ever asked me why I appointed Ratu Jope in the first place. I did it so that I would not implicate either Ratu Mara or Ratu Iloilo for carrying out the coup. That is the very simple reason because if I brought back Ratu Mara, well you can imagine what people would say. If I bring back Ratu Iloilo, well again. I went for someone completely neutral and it happens to be someone from Kubuna because I am from Kubuna. I know him, I do not know any other chief. That is the very simple reason why I appointed Ratu Jope."

As the GCC Committee was discussing with us over that three to four day period prior to the 29th and this thing came up, I said, "Fine, no problems we are quite happy to take that." Prior to this is Rabuka's role in his so-called 'mediator role', that is another story. Suffice it to say, I was not impressed with him at all because on Monday it was very clearly announced I just told him, "Don't come back here to try and mediate between anything." That is another story. His agenda was something else. We had all those agreements in place and the GCC sub-committee can confirm it independently from me (speak to them), that all these things had been agreed. When they said, in the following days, when we came to find out that they stepped in, it was in the papers and there was a threat from Parliament on Ratu Mara's life, I said, "That's just absolutely stupid and ludicrous". How can we be threatening Ratu Mara when we have just finished discussions four days with the GCC sub-committee that have agreed that he should come back as President? I said, "You have to be a lunatic." It does not tie up. Why should we be threatening on one hand and discussing to bring him back on the other? It makes no sense. They are lying, whoever is trying to propagate that view that we threatened his life from Parliament which caused them to bring in through some Home Affairs so called security assessment that caused them to evacuate him on to a boat and do those things. It is just absolute lies.

I told these guys that night, I said, "Look, is Ratu Mara gone for good or is it temporary?" They said, "No, he's gone for good, finished." I said, "Wow", I can understand that the public has a perception from May 19th until the following Tuesday of the GCC that we were at odds with each other. That also, I understand, because Ratu Mara is Fijian and he is the President. He has received all the petitions from all the marches and knows all about the indigenous rights. In his wisdom, after I did what I did on the 19th and it is very clear what I did because he knows about it, why? Because Rabuka came to me on that same day and I told him straight, but I did not know on the 19th that Rabuka was shuttling between myself and the President. I only came to know on Monday which is why I told him, "Don't come back." The reason why he told me is different from what the paper say. Anyway, His Excellency knows full well why I did what I did and if anything, he should understand, but he spend the four days garnishing support against what I did. I just told myself "Just go in with what I have to do and wait for the GCC meeting". In the four days from the 19th to the following 23rd, we just all waited for the GCC meeting, I did not pay too much attention to His Excellency's public solicitation for support from everyone against what I have done. It also told me one thing, it brings into question the nature of what Rabuka would have told him when he went back from coming to see me in Parliament from the 19th, 20th, 21st, all those days. Mr. Rabuka was shuttling up and down, God only knows what he was telling

the old man on the hill. But if His Excellency's actions throughout those four days were any indication, then I can only expect the worst.

Having said that, to then be accused of us threatening his life, right in the midst of completing agreements with the GCC's sub-committee that he be returned as the President, it just does not tie together so someone is lying about this so-called allegation of us threatening his life, absolute lies. I was very upset about that. I told them, "Hey, you want to talk, let's start talking." We met that first meeting at the Pacific Theological College, that is when they revealed their plan to us and I have it all documented. I will reveal it in the fullness of time, but what they wanted to do was completely different from what we had in mind and that is where the differences began.

Q52: Do you think it was deliberate to keep the military out of the agreement that you have made with the GCC sub-committee?

A: To keep the military out?

Q53: Yes, so that they are not aware of the whole situation when they came to inform you officially that they have taken over the Government.

A: When the military came?

Q54: Yes, what I am saying, is it intentional for the military not to know the fact that you had agreed with the GCC sub-committee on what you have agreed on, thus coming up to you and inform you that they have taken over the Government?

A: With the military, I really do not know what the link is from the military to the GCC and I also do not agree with the idea that it was intentional to keep them out of it. No, it was not intentional, definitely not. When the military chose not to be involved, I took that as they have decided they were just going to be passive because of all the internal communications going on between us and them anyway. There was a lot of talks going on from QEB down to Parliament. They knew that everyone was looking to the GCC so when the GCC sat, we were waiting, the GCC confirmed support for the coup. They passed their 10 resolutions, they appointed a sub-committee to come and see us. They publicly announced that we have been given amnesty so there was nothing secret between what we knew and what the military knew. There was nothing secret at all.

Q55: Apart from what you have just mentioned?

A: Apart from that.

When they finally came in, they would not have known of the sub-committee discussions anyway because the sub-committee the way we

saw it was reporting to the GCC and after our talks they were supposed to then finalise the date for the next meeting and then report back. We even had a delegation that went and presented to the GCC on Wednesday. The GCC met on Tuesday and they even invited the group from Parliament to go and present to the GCC as to why the coup took place and they gave a full presentation there. The GCC passed those resolutions and said they confirm support to all those things. It is all publicly documented. The military knew what was going on. But with regard to the content of the sub-committee talks with us, probably they would not have known what was going on. It would not have been hard for them to find out, because there was a lot of communications going on and we were talking. If someone were to say, is it possible that the military command had no idea as to the content of the discussions, I would have to say that the whole country was looking at what was being discussed then at Parliament between the GCC. I would have to say, "No, they did know", which is why when they came on the 29th, I used the term "I was shocked and absolutely surprised." Anyway, the rest is history.

Q56:

What was their reaction, Mr. Speight, when you told them this?

A:

They were very guarded I have to say. I told them, "What you guys have done is something very big, it is huge. You have removed Ratu Mara, you have also abrogated the Constitution." In our meetings over the following week, there was a lot of talk about the whys, of why they did that. But they made it very clear that from that night, right throughout, "We support what you have done, we support the reason, but can't say much for the method, apart from that we are behind you." That is what you are dealing with.

Q57:

Mr. Speight, just going back to the second day after May 19th when it was proposed for a new Commander and a chief of staff, were there reasons given to bring in Col. Vatu and Lt. Col. Tarakinikini to be Commander of the military?

A:

Reasons, by who?

Q58:

By any of them, the proposals of the two names that you said.

A:

Most of those discussions were taking place amongst the Army people, I was not party to it and I was just waiting to take whatever recommendation that they put up. I am not an Army man, I do not have any links in the Army, I do not know anyone in the Army, except for one or two guys in passing, but aside from that.

Q59:

Mr. Speight, thank you very much for your time. You have been very helpful and the information that you have given us here, we are very thankful. We might call you again, I hope you can be available for it, but if not, thank you very much, we are really after the soldiers involvement. Let us see what comes out at the end of it, and hopefully we can make a fair assessment at the end of it and make the appropriate recommendations.

A:

And the fact that everyone can come together so quickly on a short notice says one thing about what they all think and believe already.

[ILIKINI NAITINI (aka GEORGE SPEIGHT)]
Civilian

[J. N. B. EVANS]
Lieutenant Colonel
President

[A. MOHAMMED]
Major
Member

[T. GUCAKE]
Major
Member

[H. MACOMBER]
Warrant Officer Class One
Member

TWENTY-EIGHTH WITNESS
STATEMENT BY PTE 26713 ALEKISIO ALAVA

Private Alava, after having been duly sworn by solemn affirmation, was interviewed as follows:

- Q1: E matata vei iko na i naki ni Board oqo, na ka e yaco ena vuaviri. Ni se bera na vuaviri, na vuaviri me yacova sara na nomu vesu. E vica na ka au vinakata mo vakamacalataka eke. Ko a curu ena IMS ena yabaki cava?
A: 1990.
- Q2: O suka ena yabaki cava?
A: Au suka saka tikoga ena yabaki oqo.
- Q3: Ni se bera na vuaviri, se o qai suka ga me baleta na ka oqo?
A: Au transfer kina 3FIR me baleta na noqu tiko mai na Palimedi.
- Q4: Ni se bera na i ka 19 ni siga, o kila na baleta na vuaviri oqo, na kena order se na kena plan taki?
A: Au a tiko e tuba ni se bera na vuaviri.
- Q5: Ko a tiko e vei?
A: Au operative tiko ni se bera na veidigidigi.
- Q6: O kila na ka e vakaitavi kina na IMS, o kemudou ni se bera na i ka 19 ni siga?
A: Na noqu tiko e tuba, so na gauna au dau tiko e na Nationalist.
- Q7: Na cava na nomu i tavi ena loma ni nationalist oya? O iko lako e keya mo lako wavoki, information gathering? E donu oya?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q8: Ena gauna cava o qai kila kina na vuaviri se e na kena vakayagataki na nomudou unit?
A: Au qai kila ena i otioti sara ga ni bogi ya ni keitou gunu beer tiko kina kei na so na cauravou ia, au sega ni se vakadeitaka me yacova na I ka 19 ni siga.
- Q9: Ena Lotulevu na i ka 19 ni siga?
A: Io saka.
- Q10: O qai rogoca vei cei?
A: Au rogoca ga ena veivosaki e cake tiko e loma ni veitalanoa ena gauna o ya.

- Q11: E rawa ni o vakaraitaka mada na ka e yaco ena i ka 19 ni siga?
A: Au kila ga o au na ka au tiko kina, au sega ni kila e dua na e yaco. Eratou kaya sa curu na yacamu, e ratou kila na yacaqu, ia eratou se beraga ni kilai au. E keya au qai kila kina ni sa involve na unit ena gauna sa tukuni mai kina na yacaqu.
- Q12: Ko a tiko e vei ena gauna e caka kina na vuaviri?
A: Au tiko i tauni. Au qai muri cake kei ira na maji.
- Q13: Na i tavi cava o laki qarava e loma oya?
A: Au lai yadra tu ga.
- Q14: O laki security vei ira na hostage, security ena perimeter se o laki tiko vata kei na military wing se na Vanua wing vata kei Duvuloco?
A: Ena gauna au lako yani kina e keya na ka au sa rogoca tu o au ni keitou sa provide security vei iratou na hostage.
- Q15: E wase rua tiko na hostage, na kai idia kei na kai viti? O tiko e vei? Se o security tiko ena perimeter? Se o tiko vata kei ira na Vanua?
A: Au dau cawiri tu ga, so na gauna au tiko ena perimeter.
- Q16: Na cava mada na vuni nomu vesu mai?
A: Na gauna au vesu kina, au a tiko ga mai vale. Au report mai ena siga Vakaraubuka, ki na Keba au lesu tale i vale, ena gauna au sa qai dolava tiko na sitoa, gauna vata o ya, au sa raica na lori ni mataivalu ni sa lako yani. Sa lako yani o Satini, e tarogi au, o cei na yacaqu. Mani tukuna o koya me keirau lako vata i na keba ni tukuna o Col. Saubulinayau. Au a sa kila ni u sa report i na keba, sa vosa oti o Commander. E tukuna o koya veikeitou, "O kemudou na cauravou, dou sa vosoti."
- Q17: E vosa mai vei o Commander?
A: Ena complex, ena siga Vakaraubuka.
- Q18: O kila na tiki ni siga?
A: Ena siga Lotulevu ka caka kina na storm mai Kalabu ena kena siga Vakaraubuka. Na date oya oya sa tukuni tuga veikeitou ni se bera na storm me keitou march in kina.
- Q19: Na storm-in ena i ka 27, o kemudou ena siga Vakaraubuka na i ka 28.
A: Io saka. A tukuni kina ni keitou sa na vosoti. Au weekend off kina ena macawa oya. Ena siga Moniti, sa tukuni vei keitou ni keitou sa na transfer, me keitou sa veibiu yaki. Keitou lewe vica keitou transfer kina 3FIR.
- Q20: Na noqu taro, na cava mada na vuni nomu vesu mai?

- A: Na noqu vesu mai, yacova mai oqo, au sega tiko madaga ni kila na cava au vesu mai kina. Au qai kila ga na charge, niu sa lako sobu i ra i Totogo. E tukuni vei au ni sa treason. E keya au qai kila kina niu sa charge taki ena treason. Ni qai lako mai na pepa (Fiji Times) ena siga e tarava, e tukuni kina ni u interfere with the witness. Me yacova tiko mai oqo, au se sega tikoga ni kila na cava au vesu kina.
- Q21: Ena gauna eratou vesuki iko kina na ovisa meratou charge taki iko ena treason, o sega ni bau tukuna vei iratou na ka sa yaco mai cake?
- A: Au sega ni qai vakamacalataka e dua na ka. Au raica ni sa involve tiko na mataivalu nodratou kauti au mai vale ki na CPS.
- Q22: E sega ni o qiri e cake mo vakaraitaka vei iratou na 3FIR na ka sa yaco vei iko?
- A: Au qai rogoca ga ena cell mai Nabua ni ratou qai kidacala saraga o iratou mai cake. Ia au sega tale ni qiri tale vei iratou. Me yacova mai oqo, sa rua tale na charge, sa dua tale na felony to treason.
- Q23: Ena nomu tiko mai Palimedi, o sainitaka e dua na Leave App?
- A: Io, au sainitaka. Na ka ga e tukuni me cover taka na noqu tiko e loma ni Palimedi.
- Q24: Daru lesuva tale mada na bogini Lotulevu na i ka 18 ni siga ni o sa rogoca ni sa caka na vuaviri. Na gauna e caka kina na veitalanoa, o bau rogoca ni na vaka i tavi na mataivalu?
- A: Na veika kece me baleta na ka oqori, au sega ni rogoca kina e dua na ka. Au kila tikoga na yasana ga ka dua.
- Q25: Ena gauna o tiko kina ena Palimedi, o rogoca ni involve na mataivalu ena vuaviri?
- A: Au tiko e loma oya, au sa rogoca tu na kena veitalanoa. Sa qai vakadeitaka na yaloqu ena gauna eratou curu yani kina na turaga ni valu.
- Q26: O cei so na turaga ni valu eya curu yani i loma?
- A: O ratou o Col. Waqanisau, Col. Pio Wong kei na so tale au sega ni kilai ira.
- Q27: Na cava eratou lako i cakava?
- A: Eratou kauta yani na kamunaga me ratou laki vakadeitaka na nodratou veitokoni ena ka sa yaco. Me taucoko kina na vuaviri era tou sa vakaceguya na Peresitedi vata kei na kena biu tani na Constitution ni 1997. O koya o ya au sa vakadeitaka tiko kina. Oti oya qai tukuni veikeitou me keitou security, kei na kena caka na Leave App. Ea sa lako tale tikoga na keitou i sau.
- Q28: Ena gauna oqo, e se lako tikoga na kemu i sau?

- A: Au tiko mai cake, au saumi tiko. Au qai rogoca i muri ni o iratou na lako i yanuyanu sa cegu na kedratou i sau. Au vakila ni rairai na veisaumi mai oqo sa na viavia oti beka. Au se veisaumi ena veisaumi sa oti.
- Q29: Ena gauna sa vosa kina o Commander me tukuna ni o dou sa vosoti, o sa vakadeitaka tu e yalomo nina dua tale na ka ena yaco?
- A: Sega, baleta ni o koya e Commander, na i liuliu ni mataivalu, au sega ni vakabauta ni na rawa ni cakava e so na ka vaqo.
- Q30: Ena gauna o security tiko kina ena Parliament complex, e bau na gauna o vanataka na dakai?
- A: E sega saka.
- Q31: E bau dua na gauna o curu e tuba vata kei ira na lewenivanua?
- A: E sega vakadua.
- Q32: O bau curu ena loma ni operation room ena dua na gauna ena Parliament complex?
- A: Io, ena so na gauna au dau lako cake me keitou laki masumasu kei Na Qase.
- Q33: Ena kena dau yaco tiko na ka, okoya a yaco i Korovou, Levuka kei na veivanua. O bau donumaka ena dua na gauna se o cei e solia tiko na order me caka na ka oya?
- A: E sega saka.
- Q34: E so na dakai a laki maroroi ena vale nei Elenoa Ligairi Sikivou? O bau kila e dua na ka me baleta na ka oqo?
- A: E sega saka.
- Q35: Ena gauna oqo o se maroroya tiko e dua na dakai?
- A: E sega saka.
- Q36: O kila e dua na vanua e tiko kina na dakai?
- A: E sega saka. Na dakai ga keitou kila o koya ga e tiko ena Palimedi ka sa suka mai, ya ga na dakai au kila.
- Q37: Cpl. Alava, did you before or on the 17th or 18th May meet with Lt. Dakuliga at the Maritime with other operatives?
- A: No, Sir.
- Q38: You said that at the meeting of the 18th, you heard your name being mentioned, were there any other officers name being mentioned?
- A: No, Sir.

- Q39: Was there any mentioned of the change of Commander or Chief of Staff?
A: No, Sir.
- Q40: Where were you on the morning of the 19th may before the march?
A: Au tiko ena MH.
- 41: On the morning of the 19th May, did you enter QEB?
A: I was at the march.
- Q42: When you were at the Parliament complex, you were carrying a colt, is that right?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q43: Did you sign for it in the register?
A: Io, e dua na i vola e tiko e keya.
- Q44: Did you take a telescopic sight?
A: No, Sir.
- 45: Let me show you a register? That was the copy brought from Parliament. Can you see your name there?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q46: Is that your signature?
A: Yes.
- Q47: Can you say what did you sign for?
A: Telescopic sight, Sir.
- Q48: Oqori me vakayagataki me ka ni cava?
A: Au raica saka ga ni sa tu e kea, au taura mai e dua.
- Q49: E vakayagataki me ka ni cava?
A: Oqo na ka ni vakarairai vei ira na lewenivanua.
- Q50: Alava, e dua beka na turaga o sotava e keya na yacana o Taufa? O koya eya turaga ni ovisa tu eliu, qai vakasakei beka? O koya talega e nationalist? E tiko e Vesi Street, ena so na gauna e dau caka e nona vale na bose? Ko a bau tiko ena dua na bose e nona vale?
A: Au sega mada ni kila koya kau se bera talega ni lako vakadua ena dua na bose ena taudaku kei Suva.

Q51: E na i ka 18 ni siga e so na i yaragi a kauta o Silatolu ena Palimedi, o bau kila na kena kau na i yaragi. Eya soli vua me biuta e keya, me waraka na i na 19 ni siga me qai vakayagataki kina.

A: Au sega saka ni kila e dua na ka me baleta na i yaragi oya.

Q52: O sega ni bau rogoca ena bogi o ya?

A: Au gunu tiko ena yakavi o ya.

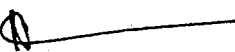
Q53: O bau rogoca ni sa tukuni na i yaragi sa tiko e tuba?

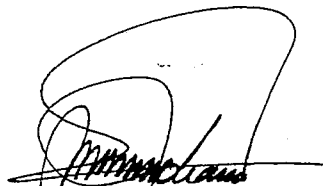
A: E sega saka. O iratou na tiko e keya e levu na ka eratou vunitaka vei au. Au saga meu kila na cava.

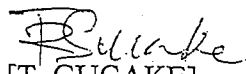
Q54: Kovula Alava, o via vakamacalataka tale e dua na ka?

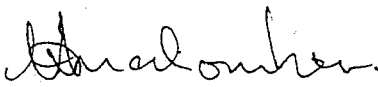
A: Na ka saka ga oya au rawa ni sauma kina na nomudou taro.


[A. ALAVA]
Private


[J. N. B. EVANS]
Lieutenant Colonel
President


[A. MOHAMMED]
Major
Member


[T. GUCAKE]
Major
Member


[H. MACOMBER]
Warrant Officer Class One
Member

TWENTY-NINTH WITNESS
STATEMENT BY 27210 SPR SEKOVE RATUDRADRA

Spr Ratudradra, after having been duly reminded of oath earlier taken, was re-interviewed as follows:

Q1: Sapper Ratudradra, are you a member of the Plant troop?

A: Io, saka.

Q2: You went down to the Parliament Complex on the 26th of May?

A: Io saka.

Q3: When did you leave the Parliament Complex?

A: Ni vo e dua na siga me caka na veibulu.

Q4: A caka ena siga cava na veibulu?

A: E na i ka 12 ni siga ni vula ko Jiulai

Q5: E na i ka 13 ni siga ni vula o Jiulai era biubiu kece kina na tamata mai na complex?

A: Io saka.

Q6: Na i tavi cava o qarava ena loma ni complex?

A: Me'u yadra saka.

Q7: O yadra e vei?

A: Ena so na gauna au vakaitavi ena yadra ena vanua era tiko kina na hostages ka so na gauna au yadra ena Battery Hill.

Q8: Vakacava na matamata?

A: E matamata talega.

Q9: Ena matamata ruarua?

A: Io saka.

Q10: Ena gauna o yadra tiko kina, o bau raica ni ra vakayagataka na i yaragi o ira na lewenivanua?

A: E sega saka.

Q11: O bau raica ni ra yadra tiko i matamata o ira na civilians tauri dakai?

A: Era dau mai wavoki tuga ka ra sega ni vaka i yaragi.

- Q12: Ena nomu yadra ena Battery Hill o cei na lewe ni nomudou mata yadra?
A: O keitou na section vata ena Engineers.
- Q13: O cei soti?
A: O iratou saka ga keitou sa mai vakatarogi vata ni kua.
- Q14: O cei soti? E vinakati na yaca?
A: E so na gauna keitou sega ni dau yadra vata, e veiveisau tu na gauna. Ena so talega na gauna, au yadra taudua ga.
- Q15: Ena nomu gauna ni yadra ena Battery Hill, tukuna mada e dua na mata yadra ko a lewena o iko?
A: Au a yadra vata ga ena dua na gauna kei Kovula Tamani. Au a lewe ni nona section.
- Q16: O cei soti e ya tiko ena section o ya?
A: Keimami dau tuvani vaka section me keitou tuvatuva tu. Keimami dau yadra vata tu ga e delana.
- Q17: Sapper Ratudradra, o iko sa i ka 29 ni tamata, ka i ka walu ni Engineer me mai tarogi tiko eke. Sa matata tu eke na i tuvatuva ni ka e yaco. E matata talega na tamata ka vakaitavi e kea. Na tapes kece me baleta na ka e yaco e tiko. E ra sa cavu yaca oti oira na liu mai. E rawa ni o vakalekaleka taka se ko vakabalavu taka. Keitou taro tiko keitou kila na vanua keitou taro tiko mai kina. Sa yabaki sese na noda tiko ena mataivalu. Na experience ni taro kece vaka ko ya keimami sa kila. O cei na nomudou matayadra mai na Battery Hill? Na i liuliu ni nomudou mata yadra o Kovula Tamani? O sega ni kilai ira?
A: O keirau ga kei Kovula Tamani ena dua na yasana.
- Q18: O cei na nomudou i liuliu na tabana ni security ena loma ni complex?
A: Au sega saka ni kila.
- Q19: O bau raica nira vakaitavi na civilians ena drill e loma se na weapon training?
A: Au sega ni donuya saka.
- Q20: Na dakai cava ko ya vakayagataka i loma o ya ena nomu yadra tiko?
A: Na M16.
- Q21: When you arrived at the complex, did you straight away go on duty?
A: Ni sa oti saka e lima na siga.

Q22: What did you do for the first five days?


A: Au tiko saka ga ena loma ni complex.

Q23: Did you do anything at all?

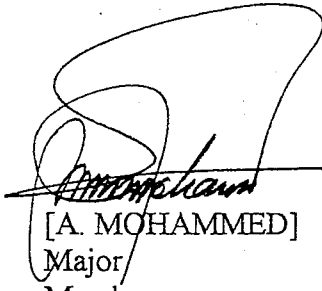
A: No, Sir.



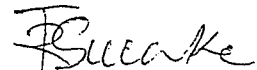
[S. RATUDRADRA]
Sapper



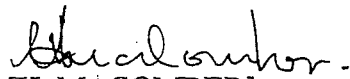
[J. N. B. EVANS]
Lieutenant Colonel
President



[A. MOHAMMED]
Major/
Member



[T. GUCAKE]
Major
Member



[H. MACOMBER]
Warrant Officer Class 1
Member

THIRTIETH WITNESS
STATEMENT BY 29340 SPR LOTE DEGEI

Spr Degei, after having been duly reminded of oath earlier taken, was re-interviewed as follows:

Q1: Spr Degei, are you a member of the Plant Troop?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q2: You went down to the Parliament Complex on the 26th of May?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q3: Nomu a gole sobu i na Complex, o cei dou a veitalanoataka na gole sobu?

A: Au a gole taudua ga.

Q4: Iko a gole talega ena lori koya a veikau?

A: O au saka au a gole taudua ga e na noqu gole i Palimedi..

Q5: Ia o iko a vodo e na lori koya a veiusa?

A: Sega.

Q6: O iko o a gole ga, e na i ka vica ni siga?

A: E na i ka 26.

Q7: E na siga vata ga?

A: Io.

Q8: Iko kauti iko ga ki na Complex?

A: Donu.

Q9: Na cava o a laki cakava i loma ya?

A: Au lai veitokoni ga e na yadra.

Q10: Yadra i matamata?

A: Donu saka.

Q11: Matamata ruarua?

A: Donu saka.

Q12: Battery Hill?

A: Au yadra saka tiko ga i matamata, ena Battery Hill e sega.

Q13: O yadravi ira na vesu?

A: Au yadra saka tikoga i matamata.

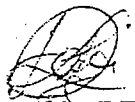
- Q14: Na gauna o yadra tiko kina i matamata, na i yaragi cava o vakayagataka?
A: Na Uzis saka.
- Q15: E vica dou a yadra tiko e na matamata e na gauna o a yadra kina?
A: E tolu.
- Q16: E na dua na mata yadra, vakamacalataka mada na yaca ni tamata o dau yadra vata kei ira i matamata?
A: Au a sega ni veikilai vata kei iratou na lewe ni yadra mai na i tekivu ni gauna o ya me yacova na noqu lesu mai.
- Q17: O cei soti dau yadra i matamata, o ira ga na sotia se o kemudou ga na Plant Troop se dau oka talega kina na civilian?
A: O au ga vata kei rua na lewe ni vanua.
- Q18: O rau talega na lewe ni vanua rau dau vakayaragi?
A: Sega saka.
- Q19: O bau raica e dua e curu yani i loma ni keba a sega ni tiko i loma, dua na sotia se turaga ni valu?
A: Lewe levu saka e ra gole yani; eso ga au kila na yacadra, eso au sega ni taura rawa.
- Q20: E rawa ni o cavu yaca mada?
A: Au sega ni taura rawa saka na rank, au rawa ni cavuta saka ga na yaca - Tarakinikini, Caucau, Raduva, Volavola, Saubulinayau.
- Q22: E vica vata na ka e yaco e na taudaku ni tikotiko se na Parliament Complex. Bau dua na gauna o vakaitavi se o lako vata kei ira na i lala ko ya e ra lako mai tuba?
A: Sega saka.
- Q23: Bau dua na gauna o vakayagataka nomu dakai mo vanataka?
A: Sega saka.
- Q24: Gauna cava qai o biuta na Complex?
A: Ka 13 saka ni siga.
- Q25: O a gole i vei?
A: Gole saka i na koro.
- Q26: I vei ya?
A: I Tailevu.

- Q27: Tailevu e sega ni dua na koro.
A: Matacaucau, Waimaro, Tailevu.
- Q28: E na gauna cava o qai lesu tale mai kina i na keba?
A: Kaci saka yani o neitou i liuliu.
- Q29: O cei nomu i liuliu?
A: O Ravula.
- Q30: Spr Degei, where were you when the rest of the Plant Troop personnel went to Parliament?
A: I was there in Parliament.
- Q31: When Major Savua, Veisamasama and the rest came to Parliament; where were you at that time?
A: Au qai muri ratou saka.
- Q32: Where were you on that morning; were you in the Complex?
A: I was at home.
- Q33: What time did you arrive in Nabuni that morning; did you report for duty?
A: I had just knocked off on that morning.
- Q34: So you have completed the duty whole day?
A: Yes.
- Q35: When you arrived in the Parliament Complex that afternoon, what did you do?
A: I went inside and joined my Unit members in there.
- Q36: Were you given a duty straight away?
A: No.
- Q37: When did you go on duty?
A: After one week.
- Q38: What did you do for a week inside?
A: Every week?
- Q39: No, you said you went on duty after a week after you entered Parliament. What did you do for that seven days?
A: Eat and sleep.

- Q40: Do you recall the policeman that was shot at Parliament?
A: No.
- Q41: Have you heard of a policeman been shot?
A: No.
- Q42: Did you hear anything in Parliament?
A: No.
- Q43: Spr Degei, e na gauna o tiko kina e na Palimedi, o bau kila se o raica na nodra vakatavulici vakaivalu na lewe ni vanua e na weapon-training?
A: Sega saka.
- Q44: O bau raici ira na lewe ni vanua ni ra vakaiyaragi?
A: Sega saka.
- Q45: O a veisaumi tu ga e na gauna o tiko kina e na Palimedi?
A: Sega.
- Q46: E na gauna qo o sa veisaumi?
A: Se bera.
- Q47: E na gauna cava o qai lesu tale kina i Nabuni?
A: Neitou biubiu saka ga mai kea, keitou lako sara i raica na neitou CO. Sa mani tukuna oko ya me keitou lesu tale i vale e na qai lai kacivi keitou tale yani.
- Q48: Ka vica ni siga o sa tiko tale kina mai Nabuni?
A: Au sega ni taura rawa.
- Q49: Spr Degei, whilst in Parliament, did you get newspapers to read?
A: No.
- Q50: Did you watch television?
A: No.
- Q51: Did you hear of an order given out by the Commander for all troops to return to camp?
A: No.
- Q52: If you had heard of an order by the Commander for you and the other soldiers to return to camp, would you have done it?
A: I do not know.

Q53: What do you mean, "I do not know"? The answer is simple either you would have returned or what?

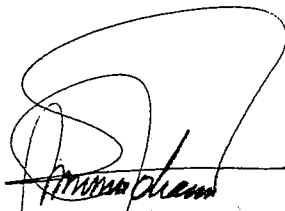
A: It is very hard to explain.



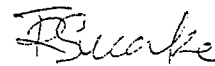
[E. DEGEI]
Sapper



[J. N. B. EVANS]
Lieutenant Colonel
President



[A. MOHAMMED]
Major
Member



[T. GUCAKE]
Major
Member



[H. MACOMBER]
WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1
Member

THIRTY FIRST WITNESS
STATEMENT BY 27506 SPR PENI VULAKI

Spr Vulaki, after having been duly sworn by solemn affirmation was interviewed as follows:

- Q1: Spr Vulaki, are you a member of the Plant Troop?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q2: When did you go into Parliament?
A: 26th May.
- Q3: Were you part of the team that went down in the truck?
A: Sir.
- Q4: Yes or no?
A: Yes.
- Q5: Who gave you the order to go down, whether it was discussed formally or casually?
A: No discussion took place.
- Q6: What was your duty at the Parliament Complex?
A: Au yadravi iratou saka tu ga na kaivesu.
- Q7: Bau dua tale na mataqali cakacaka o cakava i loma o ya?
A: Sega.
- Q8: Vakatabakidua sara ga e na nomu yadravi ira tiko na vesu tu i loma?
A: Io, yadravi iratou tu ga na vesu.
- Q9: Dakai cava o dau vakayagataka e na gauna ni yadra?
A: Au sega ni vakasamataka rawa.
- Q10: Na gauna o dau lai yadra kina ikea, na dakai cava o dau vakayagataka o iko - na calibre cava?
A: Au sa guilecava saka na yacava, au se qai raica vakadua na dakai ya.
- Q11: E tiko na MP5, Uzis, Colt, Pistol?
A: Na colt saka.
- Q12: E vica vata na incidents a yaco e na taudaku ni location, bau dua na gauna o vakaitavi e na dua vei ira na incidents qo?
A: Sega.
- Q13: Bau dua na gauna o biuta na Complex?

- A Yakavi ni siga Lotulevu, au curu tale ena mataka ni Vakaraubuka me caka na suka yaragi.
- Q14: O a gole i vei nomu lako ya?
A: Au gole sara i Suvavou.
- Q15: A cava o lai cakava i Suvavou?
A: Qiri ga mai e dua keirau veitacini, vakatarogi au, "O set tiko", au kaya "Set". Kaya o ko ya "Sa rawa ni o gole mai tuba qo", "Sa rawa", Yakavi rawa ni o mai gunu yaqona?" Au vakatarogi ko ya se suka e na vica, kaya o koya "Veimama na va". Kaya sara o koya "Quarter to Five daru sota e na main gate". Lako mai nona motoka, au vodo sara, mataka ni Vakaraubuka au lako tale me lai vakayacori na suka yaragi.
- Q16: O vakavale tiko ivei?
A: I Tamavua Koro.
- Q17: O Major Savua, na cava nona i tavi e na loma ni Complex?
A: Au raici ko ya ni vaka-civilian tu ga, wavoki tu ga vaqo, sega ni macala vei au se cava na nona i tavi.
- Q18: Did you get newspapers to read at the Complex?
A: No.
- Q19: Did you hear of an order given by Commander for all soldiers in the Complex to return to QEB?
A: No.
- Q20: The sentry duty you said you were doing, you said you were looking after the hostages, did you at any time guard the main gate, back gate or the perimetres?
A: No.
- Q21: Did you go for sentry on Battery Hill?
A: Once.
- Q22: Who was with you on that day?
A: I do not even know those who were carrying out the sentry duties together. We were just calling each other "Naita", "Tau", "Mata".
- Q23: Were all these "Naita", "Tau", members of the Engineer Unit?
A: When I was on duty that night, I was the only one, no one else.
- Q24: You alone?
A: Yes.
- Q25: O yadra vata kei ira na civilian i cake ya e na gauna o yadra kina i Battery Hill?

- A: E na gauna au yadra kina i cake ya, e ra vaka civilian kece tu. E sega sara ga ni macala se ra civilian se ra CRW, na ka ga au kila o au taudua mai na Engineer au tiko i kea.
- Q26: You were the only Engineer there?
A: Yes.
- Q27: O ira na kena vo e ra vakaiyaragi tu i cake ya e na gauna o lako cake kina mo lai yadra i na Battery Hill?
A: Na noqu lako yani e na bogi ya, au taura tikoga na noqu dakai na colt ya.
- Q28: O sega ni raici ira na kena vo e ra vakaiyaragi se sega?
A: Sega.
- Q29: Spr Vulaki, there is evidence here from the other members of your unit. They said they have been on duty at Battery Hill with you.
A: With me?
- Q30: Yes.
A: Dua na gauna?
- Q31: Yes?
A: No.
- Q32: Sa soli tukutuku oti ike e dua na Lance Corporal, dua na Sapperr rau vakamacalataka ni o iko lewe ni yadra qo, Vasutoga, Tamani, Vulaki vata kei Taylor?
A: Au a se yadra ga i kea vakadua. O ratou kece qori au sega ni raica i kea e dua.
- Q33: Spr Vulaki, do you remember the day the police officer was shot near the Parliament?
A: No.
- Q34: Have you heard of that incident?
A: No.
- Q35: Vakadua ga nomu lai yadra i Battery Hill?
A: Dua ga na bogi.
- Q36: Kena vo ni gauna?
A: Kena vo au yadra tu ga vei iratou na kaidia kei iratou na kaiviti.
- Q37: Nomu lai kauta mai na yaragi, a dua a solia vei iko na i yaragi?
A: Sega.
- Q38: Qai cava?
A: Na gauna au curu kina i loma, sa oti e macawa dua, e sega tu vei au na i yaragi, e sega ni issue vei au e dua na i yaragi.

Q39: A cava na kena i balebale o ya, se sega tiko ni yaco yani na i yaragi ko ya vuna nomu sega ni vakaiyaragi tiko kina?

A: Sega ni macala na vuna a sega ni soli tiko kina na i yaragi.

Q40: Sa oti e macawa dua sa qai soli vei iko na i yaragi ya?

A: Sega ni soli vei au, dua ga na gone ya sa lako mai tuba, au sa raica nona i yaragi ni sa tu, oti au sa mani tara tu ga, au yadra tu vei iratou na kaidia.

Q41: Na gone ya e lako mai vei, e lako mai tuba ni Palimedi?

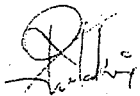
A: Sa biuta mai na Palimedi.

Q42: Me sa lako mai tuba?

A: Io.

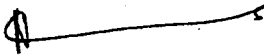
Q43: E sotia na gone e lako i tuba ya?

A: E sega ni macala vei au e sotia se lewe ni vanua baleta ni vaka-civilian tu ga.



[V. VULAKI]

Sapper



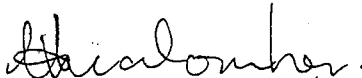
[J. N. B. EVANS]
Lieutenant Colonel
President



[A. MOHAMMED]
Major
Member



[T. GUCAKE]
Major
Member



[H. MACOMBER]
Warrant Officer Class One
Member

THIRTY-SECOND WITNESS
STATEMENT BY 29485 LT CHARLES DAKULIGA

Lt Dakuliga, after having been duly sworn by solemn affirmation, hereby states:

I joined the army in November, 1995. After six months I went to New Zealand for training. I graduated from OCS Wairua, NZ in June 1997. In September of 1997, I went for a tour of duty to Sinai and returned in October, 1998. I came back to the 3rd Battalion in which I had to go to Monasavu in November and December of 1998. After two months in February 1999, I went to New Zealand again for the Platoon Commanders' course. I joined the IFMS after returning from New Zealand. That was in July last year. Now I am the Troop Commander of the IFMS and is also the Assistant Training Officer of the unit.

- Q1: Lt. Dakuliga, could you give us your involvement into the events of the 19th of May and after until this day?
- A: On the morning of Friday, the 19th of May, we were told by Mr. Baleinamau that we were going for an exercise. We had to RV at Maritime. Our transport was coming and we came out of the camp through the back gate where a mini-bus was waiting for us. When we got there, I saw a civilian driver. I saw two civilians (the driver and another one sitting in front). We boarded the mini-bus and I was very suspicious at that time because we do not go out on exercises with civilians. In the mini-bus, I asked Mr. Tuivanuavou if he knew anything about the exercise and he said that he did not so he told us to get off. Everything was happening so fast at that time. We got off when the mini-bus stopped at the junction of Sukanaivalu Road and the Suva/NAUSORI Road. That was near RSMS. We got off and told the boys to get off also. After that we came back to the Complex. When we reached the Complex, the Commander LFC (Col. Tuatoko) rang and asked Mr. Tuivanuavou to go and see him. When Mr. Tuivanuavou went, Captain Uluilakeba rang and informed me that seven men had stormed Parliament. I waited for Mr. Tuivanuavou and when he returned, he said that Commander LFC had ordered the unit to go on stand-by. During that time, Baleinamau and Mr. igairi was at the Complex. That is all I have to say, Sir.
- Q2: Where was the pick-up point for the mini-bus that you boarded?
- A: At Sukanaivalu Road. At the back of the Complex.
- Q3: From now on we will refer to the Parliament Complex as the Complex and the unit base at QEB will be referred to as the unit.
- A: Yes, Sir.
- Q4: The pick-up point was the road into the unit where it meets Ratu Sukuna Road? That was where you got on the mini-bus?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q5: Ratu Sukuna Road and the road from the unit?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q6: That is where you got on the mini-bus?

A: The mini-bus was on Sukanaivalu Road, not on the road going to the unit.

Q7: It was on the Sukanaivalu Road and you came off the track that leads into the unit?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q8: That was the pick-up?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q9: How many IFMS personnel got into the mini-bus with you?

A: I do not remember, Sir. All I know is that the mini-bus was full.

Q10: Who briefed you to go on the exercise? You indicated that the OC (Baleinamau) briefed you at the unit?

A: There was no briefing. He just said that there will be an exercise and that we were supposed to RV. No, he did not say anything about the RV point or anything like that. I went up to him and asked what was going on and he said that we were going to Maritime and will RV with the Old Man (Mr. Ligairi).

Q11: Approximately how many IFMS personnel went with you? Figures cannot be exact according to you, but how many approximately?

A: About seven or eight.

Q12: When you arrived at Ratu Sukuna Road (the pick-up point), were there any other vehicles there apart from the mini-bus?

A: No, Sir.

Q13: Do you know the number of the mini-bus?

A: No, Sir.

Q14: Who was driving the mini-bus?

A: I do not know, Sir. A civilian.

Q15: How many other civilians were in the mini-bus?

A: There was another one sitting in front with the driver.

Q16: Could you recognise any of those two civilians?

- A: No, Sir.
- Q17: If shown the photo, can you recognise them?
A: No.
- Q18: Later on we will show you the photos and you will be recalled and shown the photos to see if you can identify those two?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q19: On moving down from the pick-up point, were there any vehicles to the front or rear of the mini-bus?
A: I do not remember, Sir.
- Q20: Were any briefing given in the mini-bus?
A: No, Sir.
- Q21: On recap, you indicated that the briefing given by OC (Lt. Baleinamau) was for the moves to be made down to the RV point, which was the Maritime School to meet with the Old Man?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q22: Referring to Major Ligairi?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q23: When you got off until this day, throughout the whole duration you remained at the unit?
A: Sir, when I knew that the unit was involved (that was on the afternoon of that Friday), I went up to the Officers Mess and remained there until I heard that Captain Stevens had taken over the unit and Mr. Balainamau had gone on leave. I did attend the briefings that the Commander had at the Officers Mess.
- Q24: What was the briefing at the Officers Mess about and who was at the briefing?
A: All the officers and the Commander was the one briefing the officers.
- Q25: What was the brief about?
A: About the situation and everything that was going on at that time and for all the officers to hold hands.
- Q26: Afterwards, where did you go? That was on the 19th of May?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q27: Afterwards, did you return to the unit?

- A: Yes, Sir.
- Q28: That was after two weeks. Where did you go in the meantime?
A: I was up in the Officers Mess.
- Q29: So you did not return to the unit?
A: No, Sir.
- Q30: You stayed in the Mess?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q31: Two weeks later, you returned to the unit?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q32: At the unit, were there any contacts made by you or anyone within the unit with those at the Parliament Complex; whether by fax, telephone, radio or any mode of communication?
A: I do not know anything about it.
- Q33: On the 19th of May, were you present at the brief that was given at night by Col. Tarakinikini?
A: Yes, Sir, I was there.
- Q34: At what time was that brief?
A: Round about 1900 hours.
- Q35: What was the nature of the brief?
A: He just came to tell us to remain in the Complex and not do anything, just listen to whatever comes from Commander LFC.
- Q36: At the meeting, were you told by the Officer in question that the army supported what was done, meaning the take-over, and supported the 1FMS for the actions taken at the Complex. Were you told at that meeting?
A: That the army supported the take-over?
- Q37: Yes.
A: No, Sir.
- Q38: Were you present at the unit when the weapons were taken out of the unit?
A: No, Sir.
- Q39: Do you have any knowledge of the weapons being taken out of the unit? The dates of when it was taken out and how it was taken out?

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- A: No, Sir. I came to know about it from Mr. Tuivanuavou. He asked Captain Stevens who was given the permission from Commander LFC.
- Q40: Can you expand on that?
A: The weapons which were taken to the bush? You are talking about that?
- Q41: The weapons which were taken out of the unit to the Complex and also.....
A: The ones to the Complex I did not know anything about, but the ones taken out of the Complex to the bush, Mr. Tuivanuavou informed me about this.
- Q42: What date was this?
A: He told me the next week, but I do not know the exact day the weapon was taken out into the bush.
- Q43: On the 19th of May, the take-over took place, two weeks after you returned to the unit. What did you do in the unit?
A: I was just seeing that everything was running normally in that ^{office} room. I was given that tasking by Captain Stevens and the administration for the boys who were in the bush.
- Q44: Were you aware of any contacts made by the unit with those in the Complex; whether you or other people within the unit?
A: No, Sir.
- Q45: Lt. Dakuliga, can you explain the composition of your troop? Before that, what was your appointment in the unit prior to May, 19th?
A: Troop Commander.
- Q46: Can you explain the composition of your troop?
A: There were four 4-men patrols in the troop. The Troop Sergeant and I was the Troop Commander.
- Q47: The day in question, May 19th, when you boarded the mini-bus with the other individuals of the IFMS, were they members of your Troop?
A: I do not know. I could not remember, Sir.
- Q48: You know the members of the unit?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q49: Can you give me some of the names of those individuals that were in the mini-bus?
A: Baleinamau, Tuivanuavou, Naika and Nawaqa. That was all I know, Sir.

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- Q50: How many of you got off the mini-bus at the junction of Ratu Sukuna Road?
A: I do not know remember, Sir.
- Q51: Approximately?
A: Nearly all of us got off except for Baleinamau and another person.
- Q52: Who was the other person?
A: I think it was Nawaqa.
- Q53: Let us go back a couple of weeks prior to May 19th, were you involved in any exercise in Vanua Levu?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q54: Can you tell us the nature of this exercise?
A: It was a combination of jungle and amphibious exercise. We were dropped off near Macuata-i-wai Island. We went on our zodiac up to our camp (Sukanaivalu Barracks). We spent two days there and then did a cross-country from Labasa to Sese Village in Cakaudrove. We spent a day in Sese and did some amphibious exercises in the Natewa Bay, crossed over to Wailevu Village and Drekeniwai Village and then we boarded our truck from there to Naibalebale Village where Major Ligairi was waiting for us. We spent a day in Naibalebale Village before returning to Suva.
- Q55: Who was overseeing all these exercises that were going on up to the time reaching Naibalebale Village?
A: Baleinamau.
- Q56: Did you have any visitors that came to witness this exercise; other senior military persons or civilians?
A: No, Sir.
- Q57: Were there any visitations made whilst in Naibalebale Village?
A: Only by the villagers.
- Q58: When you returned to Suva, did you have an exercise in Makuluva?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q59: How long was this exercise for?
A: Four day exercise.
- Q60: Your troop was involved?
A: Yes, Sir.

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- Q61: And I believe it is a full troop?
A: No, Sir.
- Q62: What was the composition?
A: It was only myself, a Sergeant and about 14 others.
- Q63: Who oversaw this exercise?
A: Myself, Sir.
- Q64: Was there any other senior personnel from 1FMS there?
A: No, Sir.
- Q65: During this exercise, were you in contact with QEB 1FMS Headquarters?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q66: What was the communication equipment used?
A: We had our comms. equipment in Makuluva.
- Q67: We are aware of the equipment you have got so you do not have to hide that. We just want to know which one you used?
A: I have forgotten the name, but I can identify the equipment.
- Q68: When you left Makuluva, what was your landing point?
A: Vatuwaqa Range.
- Q69: Is this your usual landing point on returns?
A: Sir, we change our landing points every time.
- Q70: Was there any personnels from 1FMS to receive you at the range?
A: Yes, our play^{ment}
- Q71: And who is that?
A: Staff Vakadranu.
- Q72: What did you do when you arrived back in camp after this exercise in Makuluva?
A: We refurbished our equipment and cleaned our weapons. We were still having breakfast when Mr. Baleinamau told us to go and change quickly and wait for our pick-up.
- Q73: This refurbishing and reconditioning of your gears, do you usually involve your members of your troop in doing that? Were they involved in this?
A: Everyone who goes for an exercise takes part in the refurbishment of this.

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Q74: So it is a common practice you adopt. When you come back, each individual clears his own gears?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q75: Prior to the instructions from Mr. Baleinamau, did you release any of the members who took part in the Makuluva exercise?

A: No, Sir.

Q76: Did you grant any of them leave to leave camp?

A: No, Sir.

Q77: Were all of them present there?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q78: When you were given the instructions for this exercise by Mr. Baleinamau, was there any instructions given as to the equipment to be taken?

A: No, Sir.

Q79: Did you ask him about the equipment?

A: No, Sir.

Q80: Did you not think it was out of the way going on an exercise without equipment?

A: No, Sir.

Q81: Can you identify the mini-bus you got into; colour and make?

A: I think it was a white mini-bus. That is all I can say, Sir.

Q82: You have seen the RFMF mini-bus that we have - the green one? The common ones that run from Nausori to Suva.

A: Yes, Sir.

Q83: Which one does it replicate; the one in RFMF or the ones that run from Suva to Nausori?

A: I think it is the Suva-Nausori one.

Q84: The two civilians you saw in the mini-bus, did they have any distinctive marks on them? Any tattoos or scars which you could identify them by?

A: No, Sir.

Q85: Did you look at them?

A: Yes. I just saw their backs because we went to the back of the mini-bus.

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- Q86: When you got off the mini-bus at the junction of Rt. Sukuna Road, was there any response made from Mr. Baleinamau to your getting off the bus? Did he say anything?
- A: No, Sir.
- Q87: No words were uttered at all?
- A: No.
- Q88: You said that Captain Uluilakeba rang you and said that Parliament had been stormed by seven persons.
- A: Yes, Sir.
- Q89: Did he mention where these seven persons had come from?
- A: No, Sir. He asked me over the phone if we knew what happened and after saying that we did not know what happened, he told us that seven men had stormed Parliament.
- Q90: Subsequently, have you come to know who stormed Parliament?
- A: No, Sir.
- Q91: You heard no rumours or anything as to who took part in the storming of Parliament?
- A: No, Sir.
- Q92: When Lt. Col. Tarakinikini came for the briefing at 1900 hours, what were the members of the IFMS doing in the unit?
- A: We were on stand-by at that time. We were on stand-by from about 1400 hours that afternoon until that time (1900 hours).
- Q93: Who were the senior members of your unit present at that time in the unit?
- A: Baleinamau and myself.
- Q94: Where was Captain Stevens then?
- A: Captain Stevens was in Nadi. He returned that afternoon. He was conducting the selection course in Nadi.
- Q95: Had the team from Nadi arrived at that time?
- A: Yes, Sir, when Col. Tarakinikini was there.
- Q96: They were already in camp?
- A: Yes, Sir. They came and Captain Stevens gave them leave. Then I think they met the next morning. I am not really sure.

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- Q97: Was there any indication in that briefing that the RFMF was supporting the take-over?
A: No, Sir.
- Q98: You can always decline the question I am going to ask you next. Most of the 1FMS personnel joined the group at Parliament at a later date, what made you stay away?
A: I do not know anything about that, Sir, but when I knew on Friday the 19th that 1FMS was involved, I left the unit. I was just staying around at the Officers Mess, I went home and I was just talking with Captain Stevens and Mr. Tuivanuavou.
- Q99: Can you confirm these names whether they are members of your troop: Trooper Raivalu, Trooper Serukasari, Trooper Ratu and Trooper Sokiveta?
A: Raivalu was in my troop.
- Q100: Was Raivalu involved in the Makuluva exercise?
A: No, Sir.
- Q101: Was Trooper Serukasari in your troop?
A: No, Sir.
- Q102: What made you get out of that mini-bus at the Sukunaivalu Road and Rt. Mara junction?
A: Because of the two civilians. It was different that morning. As I have already said, we do not use civilian or other vehicles apart from the unit vehicles, and secondly, we do not go out on an exercise with civilians.
- Q103: Even though your Officer-in-Command (Baleinamau) was there, you still decided to get out of the bus?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q104: Did he make any attempts at all to restrain you, to keep you on the bus?
A: No, Sir.
- Q105: How long did it take for you to walk up from the Rt. Mara junction, Sukanaivalu junction up to your unit?
A: I think it took more than half an hour to about an hour because we stopped at places. We were thinking that they could have come back and taken us. We came to the village and chatted there, then came up slowly to the Church and then we came to the unit.

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- Q106: How long after this did you receive a call from the Land Force Commander indicating that one of your officers should come up to him for a briefing?
- A: I beg your pardon, Sir.
- Q107: How long after when you arrived at your unit did Lt. Tuivanuavou receive his call from Land Force Commander?
- A: I think when we arrived, the message was there for one of the officers to go immediately to the Commander LFC.
- Q108: Was Major Ligairi and Lt. Baleinamau (your OC) present at the Complex when you arrived?
- A: No, Sir, but after some time they arrived.
- Q109: Do you know the time difference - after half an hour or after 20 minutes?
- A: Maybe 10 minutes. Mr. Tuivanuavou had just left for Commander LFC when they arrived to the unit.
- Q110: You indicated that when you arrived at the unit you got the call and Lt. Tuivanuavou went to LFC?
- A: Yes, Sir.
- Q111: On the departure of Lt. Tuivanuavou to see LFC, Lt. Baleinamau and Major Ligairi arrived at the unit?
- A: Yes, Sir.
- Q112: Who did they see at the unit? Who did they talk to and what was the subject discussed?
- A: When they arrived, I asked Baleinamau what was happening and he said (that was after Capt. Uluilakeba had rung me) that we were on stand-by. I then told the boys to get their equipment together. After a while, they went into their offices and then went up, I think, to the Commander. That took place in about five minutes or so.
- Q113: Sir, on the evening of Saturday, 20th May, were you at the unit?
- A: No, Sir.
- Q114: You remember Private Raivalu?
- A: Yes.
- Q115: He is a member of 1FMS?
- A: Yes.

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- Q116: Do you ever come down to the unit on Saturday afternoon or in the evening?
A: Yes, during weekends. During my spare time I come down and visit the guards, but on that Saturday (20th) I did not come down to the unit.
- Q117: Where were you?
A: I was at the Mess.
- Q118: Just a point of clarification, when the bus reached the junction of Ratu Sukuna Road, who gave the directive for the bus to stop so that you could get off?
A: The mini-bus had to stop to make way for the traffic. That was when we got off. No-one told the driver to stop.
- Q119: Who led the members of 1FMS out of the bus?
A: Mr. Tuivanuavou because he was just beside the door.
- Q120: Do you recall a church service that was conducted in your unit where Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka attended?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q121: Can you tell of the events that happened at the unit on that day?
A: We had the church service with Major-General Rabuka who was the guest speaker. He came along with Col. Vatu. They were the only two apart from unit members who were present during that church service. After the church service, we had tea and some grog. I left about half an hour later when they started drinking grog.
- Q122: Lt. Dakuliga, when were you aware that members of the unit were involved in the hostage situation down at the Complex?
A: On Saturday. I knew that 1FMS was involved on Friday afternoon, but I did not believe it, then on Saturday I saw it in the newspapers.
- Q123: On Friday you said that you were not sure, but you had heard rumours that the unit was involved. Can you confirm that?
A: No, not rumours. We were told by Commander LFC.
- Q124: You said that on Saturday you saw the newspaper. Seeing those involved you said Soko, anyone else from the unit?
A: No, Sir.
- Q125: Do you know the timing when you got onto the mini-bus?
A: I am not really sure, Sir.

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- Q126: From getting on the mini-bus to the time you got off, until you returned to the unit, was Private Soko there when you got into the mini-bus?
A: No, Sir.
- Q127: On the time difference from the mini-bus leaving, you indicated about 30 minutes until the time you got to the Complex. That is 30 minutes gone.
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q128: How soon after arriving at the unit did you get the call from Major Uluilakeba?
A: About two or three minutes.
- Q129: That is 32 minutes.
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q130: You have had discussions about this in your unit (1FMS)? You have talked to other officers and soldiers?
A: No, Sir.
- Q131: You have not talked at all about this incident?
A: On Friday.
- Q132: I am talking about Friday until today.
A: Yes.
- Q133: You have?
A: Yes.
- Q134: In the normal conversation, who are the people implicated to have taken over Parliament?
A: I do not know, Sir.
- Q135: Have names been mentioned?
A: I do not know, Sir.
- Q136: Sir, who is the armourer of the unit?
A: At that time?
- Q137: Before May 19th?
A: Bukasila.
- Q138: Is he a private?
A: Lance Corporal.

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Q139: Do you have any AK-47's in your unit?

A: No, Sir.

Recalled on 15/09/00:

Lt. Dakuliga, after having been duly reminded of oath taken earlier, was re-interviewed as follows:

Q140: After talking to you, we have gone through so many other witnesses, we have re-questioned so many of the IMS and things have come to light that you have not indicated to us from our first discussion. To make things easier for you and your Unit, the Board knows the involvement and who was involved in what respect. We will allow you to rectify that, failing that, we will ask you questions.

A: Did you have prior knowledge of the coup prior to the 19th of May?
No, Sir.

Q141: On the week of the 15th to the 19th May, you led a delegation under training in Makuluva?

A: Sir.

Q142: What were the occasions that you returned from Makuluva on the nights?

A: We came back to the marine slipway for resupply.

Q143: What night was this?

A: On Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Q144: On Thursday night, on return to Makuluva, did you bring a sack containing weapons?

A: No, Sir.

Q146: Were there any discussions in Makuluva of the takeover, the coup that will happen on the 19th and that your teams was supposed to takeover or be part of it?

A: No, Sir.

Q147: You returned on Thursday night?

A: On Friday morning, Sir.

Q148: Did you return on Thursday night to make a call to your Unit?

A: On Friday morning, Sir.

Q149: Okay on Thursday night, you said that was a admin run

A: Sir.

- Q150: Where was the landing?
A: At the maritime.
- Q151: What was the landing for on Thursday night?
A: We had to collect hot boxes.
- Q152: With the hot boxes, were any weapons picked up?
A: No, Sir.
- Q153: Was any message passed to you about the events that will take place on the 19th?
A: No, Sir.
- Q154: When did the troops arrive back in camp?
A: We arrived at about 0700 hrs on Friday morning.
- Q155: Where were you from 0930 to 1030 on that same day?
A: I was in the Unit, Sir.
- Q156: In the Unit, did you see the weapons being loaded on to a blue pick-up?
A: On Friday morning?
- Q157: Yes, on Friday morning.
A: No, Sir.
- Q158: Did you see Buadromo in the Unit?
A: No, Sir.
- Q159: Naduaniwai?
A: No, Sir.
- Q160: Tikotani on that Friday morning?
A: No, Sir.
- Q161: You were told to go to a meeting, the briefing done by Baleinamau for you to go down and exercise, RV at the maritime with Major Ligairi. Recall, you went and met in the back gate and a white mini-bus, correct?
A: Sir.
- Q162: You went down in a white mini-bus and at the junction of Sukanaivalu Rd and Ratu Mara Rd, you got off, you had indicated that Tuivanuavou and Naika stayed in the bus?
A: No, we came out together.
- Q163: Was Baleinamau also in the mini-bus?

A: Sir.

Q164: Are you sure Baleinamau was in the bus?

A: Sir.

Q165: This lot that went down, was this the first lot or the second lot?

A: I do not know, Sir.

Q166: Lt. Dakuliga, on the night of the 18th when you left Makuluva for the pick-up point in maritime, who was the coxswain for your boat?

A: It was Sgt. Naika, Sir.

Q167: Who was your escort?

A: Ratu, Sir.

Q168: When you got to the maritime, did any of them get off?

A: No, Sir.

Q169: They went back to Makuluva?

A: Sir.

Q170: What time did you arrive at the slipway?

A: At about 1900 hrs.

Q171: Who was there to receive you?

A: Staff-Sergeant Vakadrano.

Q172: Was there anyone else with him?

A: Yes, there was another guy in the vehicle.

Q173: Who was he?

A: I do not know, Sir.

Q174: A member of the IMS?

A: Sir.

Q175: Where was he, in the vehicle or standing outside?

A: In the vehicle, Sir.

Q176: How long did you stay in the slipway?

A: About two or three minutes.

- Q177: We were told in this Board that when you returned from the maritime slipway back to Makuluva, there were MP5s and pistols with ammunitions taken back to the island in sand bags, can you confirm or deny that?
A: No, Sir, we did not take anything.
- Q178: Why would three soldiers have stated that that was true, why would they make such a statement when it is not true?
A: I do not know, Sir.
- Q179: When you went back to Makuluva, did you have a briefing with your NCOs?
A: We were having a party, we were just telling stories.
- Q180: Was it not true that your involvement as to the morning of the 19th (the storming of Parliament) discussed in this briefing?
A: No, Sir.
- Q181: Was it not one of the issues that was discussed was you to be dressed in uniform and storm the Parliament?
A: No, Sir.
- Q182: When did you leave Makuluva?
A: At about 0500 hrs.
- Q183: Is it not true that you left again after you had arrived back at Makuluva the same night?
A: Sir, I came on Friday morning.
- Q184: Who escorted you?
A: Ratu.
- Q185: Was there someone else with you?
A: Sgt. Naika.
- Q186: Where did you get off?
A: At the Vatuwaqa rifle range.
- Q187: Is it not true that you got off at the slipway again?
A: No, Sir.
- Q188: When you returned from the first time on the night of Thursday when you went back to Makuluva, did you come back that night?
A: No, Sir.
- Q189: When you went back to the island, were you given a mobile phone to carry?

- A: No, Sir.
- Q190: What time was it when you landed at the range on Friday morning?
A: The whole troop.
- Q191: No, you when you landed?
A: At about 0400 hrs.
- Q192: Where was the rest of the troop?
A: At Makuluva.
- Q193: Why did you land earlier?
A: I came to change our RV that morning.
- Q194: Can you give us the reason and who you discussed it with?
A: I just discussed it with the NCOs but we changed our RV that morning because I told Staff-Sergeant Vakadrano to pick us up that morning from the marine slipway. I changed it and if he could come and pick us up at a later time at the Vatuwaqa rifle range.
- Q195: Why the reason for the change?
A: Because we were talking right into the night so we discussed amongst ourselves, why do we not move the time forward and change the RV.
- Q196: Why, what was the reason?
A: That was the reason, Sir.
- Q197: What was the reason to move it forward?
A: Because we slept when it was in the early hours on Friday.
- Q198: You moved it from what time to what time?
A: We were supposed to be picked up at 0530, I moved it back to 0630.
- Q199: Is it not true that the reason you came to change the pick-up point because the rest of the members of the group declined to join you and land at maritime?
A: No, Sir.
- Q200: When you left Makuluva, did you know where the rest of your team was?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q201: Where were they?
A: At Makuluva.

- Q212: What if I tell you that they were not at Makuluva, but they had gone to the landing point on Rewa bay on the other side?
A: No, Sir, because I returned to Makuluva and they were there in Makuluva.
- Q213: What time was it?
A: 0500 hrs.
- Q214: I thought you said you left Makuluva at that time, or at 0400 hrs?
A: Yes.
- Q215: I still cannot reconcile it, the rest of the members who were in Makuluva said they drifted in the water, went towards the landing point on the other side. How many rubber dinghies did you have?
A: Two, Sir.
- Q216: How many people were out there?
A: 14 of us including me.
- Q217: How many trips are required for those two dinghies, or just one trip to take the whole lot?
A: Sir.
- Q218: One dinghy came and stayed with you or the dinghy went back?
A: The dinghy went back, Sir.
- Q219: Where was the two dinghies when you left at 0400 hrs in the morning on Friday?
A: We got a dinghy and the second one was in Makuluva.
- Q210: Lt. Dakuliga, in the exercise that you had in Makuluva, when did you start to come back to Viti Levu?
A: We came back on Tuesday, Sir.
- Q211: At what time on Tuesday?
A: I think it was on Tuesday afternoon.
- Q212: Exact timing.
A: I think it was in the afternoon maybe 1400 hrs because we came for water re-supply.
- Q213: Who was with you on that dinghy?
A: No, I did not come for that water re-supply.
- Q214: Who was in the dinghy?
A: It was Sergeant Naika, he had an escort but I cannot remember who was the escort.

- Q215: When did Sgt. Naika come back to Makuluva?
A: On that Tuesday afternoon.
- Q216: Do you know the timing?
A: They spent about an hour.
- Q217: When Sgt. Naika came to Makuluva, did he have any sacks with him?
A: No, Sir.
- Q218: On Wednesday, did you go across to the maritime slipway?
A: No, Sir.
- Q219: Did one of your boats come across to the maritime slipway?
A: No, Sir.
- Q220: Was any of your men medically evacuated from Makuluva during the exercise?
A: No, Sir.
- Q221: Are you sure?
A: Sir.
- Q222: The Board has heard that one of your men was medically evacuated on Wednesday, your trooper Saukuru was evacuated on Wednesday night. They brought the dinghy across, you were not aware of that?
A: No, Sir. Trooper Saukuru was with me, I could remember, he was there on Thursday night and we came back together from Makuluva on Friday morning. Everyone was there.
- Q223: So he was not evacuated on Wednesday?
A: No, Sir.
- Q224: On Wednesday, did one of your boats come across to the mainland?
A: No, Sir.
- Q225: Are you sure?
A: Sir.
- Q226: On Thursday, when you came across to the mainland, you have already mentioned that Naika and Ratu were with you, who got off at the maritime slipway?
A: Myself, Sir.
- Q227: Did Sgt. Naika got off at the slipway?
A: No, Sir.

- Q228: Are you sure?
A: He just got off and was beside the zodiac. I was the one that went ashore.
- Q229: He got off beside the zodiac and was he still in the water or what?
A: Sir, and the water was about knee height.
- Q230: When you went back to Makuluva, were orders given to some of your men to start filling in magazines with live rounds?
A: No, Sir, we did not have any live rounds when we went to Makuluva. Myself and the two DS, Sgt. Naika and Corporal Tawake were the only ones with live rounds for that exercise. We just had a magazine each.
- Q231: What weapons were you using?
A: M16 A2.
- Q232: It is strange because the DS that you have mentioned have alluded to the fact that the weapons were brought back on Thursday night to the island and that you came ashore to try and contact some people to confirm the RV that night. While you came ashore, the rest of your group was drifting and has already mentioned by Major Aziz, waited for dawn towards the Rewa peninsular area and they came back in. That is what we are trying to reconcile here. What is the normal procedure for signing out weapons from your Unit?
A: The individual person goes and signs out the weapon.
- Q233: Are you aware of your field operatives, the people out on surveillance?
A: Sir.
- Q234: Are you aware of who they were?
A: Sir.
- Q235: When do they normally come into your Unit?
A: Friday afternoons.
- Q236: Friday afternoon on when?
A: After lunch, normally before the coup, we usually have a grog session after lunch on Friday. Everyone comes together, the whole Unit and then we drink grog.
- Q237: Is it the last Friday of every month, the operatives turned up at your Unit or is it every Friday during the week?
A: Sometimes every Friday.
- Q238: Then they turn up?
A: Yes.

Q239: Lt. Dakuliga, do you have any knowledge after that of the events in the Parliament Complex that you have not told us about, anything at all in relation to those at the Parliament Complex?

A: No, Sir.

Q240: Mr. Dakuliga, did any of your team members come out and RV at the maritime landing, any of them on Friday 19th?

A: No, Sir, we went together to the Vatuwaqa rifle range.

Q241: How many dinghies were at the rifle range?

A: Two, Sir.

Q242: Did you count your men?

A: Sir.

Q243: What time did you land at the rifle range?

A: Just after 0600 hrs.

Q244: Were you with the men when they landed or you were on the ground waiting for them?

A: I went to Makuluva and then we boarded from Makuluva to Vatuwaqa again.

Q245: Are you sure that none of your men actually came up at the maritime?

A: No, Sir.

Q246: And you are sure that Saukuru stayed with you?

A: Sir.

Recalled On 21/09/00:

Lt. Dakuliga, after having been duly reminded of oath taken earlier, was re-interviewed as follows:

Q247: We have a few questions we need to ask you. The training that was done in Makuluva, did you take weapons out on Thursday night in sand bags to Makuluva on Thursday, 18th?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q248: Did you take weapons out on Tuesday when you went for the exercise?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q249: What were the weapons?

A: M16 A2 rifles.

- Q250: You now said that you took out weapons on Thursday, what were the weapons on Thursday?
- A: MP5s and pistols.
- Q251: Who gave you the weapons and who gave you the briefing on Thursday? What briefing was given to you on Thursday?
- A: When we arrived at the slipway, Sergeant Tikotani and Corporal Naduaniwai were at the slipway.
- Q252: At maritime?
- A: Sir. They told me to take the weapons back to Makuluva and have it ready by the next morning. I asked them why and they said we were having an exercise on Friday morning.
- Q253: Did they actually say "an exercise" or you were going to take over Parliament on Friday morning?
- A: An exercise, Sir. I asked them who told them, they said that it was from our OC at that time, Lt. Baleinamau.
- Q254: You went on Thursday, weapons were taken to Makuluva, were the magazines then filled in with live rounds?
- A: No, Sir.
- Q255: On Thursday night, Friday morning you returned, continue from there, where did you land?
- A: We came back from maritime on Thursday night, we went back to Makuluva. I asked Sergeant Naika who was with me at that time if he had known about the exercise, he said that he did not know anything about it. I went back to the island, I asked Corporal Tawake. I also asked him the same question, he said he did not know anything about the exercise. I told the boys in the island and we discussed amongst ourselves that we leave the weapons in the zodiac and return it the next morning. They did not feel comfortable with Sergeant Tikotani and Corporal Naduaniwai getting the weapons to the island that night. I told them, "Okay, I am going back to Viti Levu to change the RV and we will return the weapons back to base". I came back that night with Sergeant Naika and Trooper Ratu, we got off at Vatuwaqa and myself and Trooper Ratu went back to camp where I rang the Unit. Mr. Ravai was on duty at that time. I told him about the changing of timings and RV that morning. Before we left, I told Sergeant Naika when he return to Makuluva to get the boys. I made that decision when we were coming back to Vatuwaqa that night because I did not feel comfortable about the boys being at Makuluva that night. We had two places to RV, if it was not at the range at about 0445 hours that morning to 0500 hours, I gave them

a timing of 15 minutes, if we had not arrived, then I changed the RV to this point just down the road at about 0600 hours to 0615 hours that morning so we came back late for the timings at Vatuwaqa range so we met just down the road from here. Sergeant Naika was there to pick us up. We went and we met the boys who were at the sea just near the Vatuwaqa range. I briefed the boys of what had happened and what I have done and then we waited for Staff Sergeant Vakadrano to pick us up at our RV which was Vatuwaqa range at 0630 hours that morning.

Q256: When you went up to the camp, who met you up at the camp and who briefed you at the camp?

A: We did not meet anyone, Sir.

Q257: When you came in to clarify that, when you were dropped on Thursday night at the range to clarify you and Ratu, you went up to the camp?

A: Sir, we went up to the camp.

Q258: Who did you meet there and who de-briefed you?

A: We did not meet anyone, we went straight to the Officers Mess. I used the public phone to ring.

Q259: To call who?

A: To call the guys at the Unit of the change in RV times. I used the public telephone because I did not want the guys at the Unit to know that I was in the camp.

Q260: So you came that night, who picked you up from the range?

A: From the range we walked right to 3 miles where we got a taxi and went up to the Officers Mess. I had money in my room, I went to my room and paid the taxi.

Q261: You went up with Private Ratu?

A: Sir.

Q262: Where did you sleep the night?

A: We did not sleep that night, Sir.

Q263: You made the call then you went back down the way?

A: Sir.

Q264: Lt. Dakuliga, your statement keeps changing all the time. Your credibility as an officer in the Officer corps and you are giving evidence here is sometimes questionable. I will re-give you that question again.

Before the 19th of May, were you aware of any plans or anyone involved in the coup that will take place was to take place on the 19th?

A: No, Sir.

Q265: How many MP5s and pistols were taken?

A: I am not sure of the number of MP5s and pistols.

Q266: Were live ammunition also taken?

A: Sir.

Q267: How much?

A: About a sack full.

Q268: Confirm the sack, what kind of sack is this?

A: A brown sack, the small one.

Q269: The nylon one or the fibre one?

A: The fibre one.

Q270: Is it normal to take live rounds on exercise?

A: Sir.

Q271: Even on a maritime exercise like that?

A: Sir.

Q272: When you went out on Tuesday, did you take live rounds with your M16?

A: Not everyone, Sir, only myself, Sergeant Naika and Corporal Tawake. We had a magazine full of live rounds.

Q273: What were these rounds used for or what is the purpose of you taking rounds on that exercise when you left on Tuesday, the three of you, you said carried rounds, what was the purpose of that?

A: We took it, first of all for protection and secondly, if something happened at Makuluva we could have signal it with the weapons, to shoot live rounds.

- Q274: You say protection, protection from what?
A: From anyone, Sir. Usually, when we go out for an exercise, one of the things that we used to bear in mind is the security or protection during the duration of the exercise.
- Q275: Mr. Dakuliga, you go back to the night of 19th when you came at the slipway in maritime, when you arrive there, did you get your hot boxes?
A: Sir.
- Q276: In what vehicle was it brought in?
A: A four-wheel drive vehicle, Sir.
- Q277: Your Unit vehicle?
A: Sir.
- Q278: Can you recall the number of that vehicle?
A: GK 419, I am not really sure but it starts with GK.
- Q279: Who was the driver?
A: I cannot recall who was the driver.
- Q280: Was it Vakadrano?
A: No, Sir.
- Q281: When you were given the ammunition and the rifles, who spoke with you, Tikotani or Naduaniwai?
A: Tikotani, Sir.
- Q282: What was his exact briefing to you?
A: He said that we were having an exercise the next morning which was going to go together with the march which was to happen at Suva that day. I believed him that night because before I left
- Q283: Where was the exercise to be conducted?
A: In town, Sir.
- Before we left for the exercise, Major Ligairi told me that "Maybe you would be called up during the exercise to come back to Suva".
- Q284: When was that?

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A: Before we went on Tuesday, that was on Tuesday morning so he told me that, "You maybe called up to come and be on stand-by for the march on Friday" so when they came on that Thursday night, I was thinking of what Major Ligairi told me on Tuesday because before we left, Sergeant Naika told me, "Sergeant Tikotani wants you to meet him tonight so that he could brief you about what is going to happen tomorrow".

Q285: This march, there were a lot of civilians involved?

A: Sir.

Q286: Is it normal practice to do a live exercise amongst civilians, you are carrying live rounds and the exercise will involve live rounds, is it normal to take it where most civilians are involved?

A: Sir. We were told not to be there, I do not know what was going to happen on that day, on Friday. In the Unit, it is normal for us when we are told to be on stand-by, we have to prepare our kit everything which included taking live rounds with us, even though if it is a civilian exercise or whatever exercise, we have to take live rounds.

Q287: Let us go back to the time you arrived in Makuluva, is it true that Soko and the other junior ranks, privates, were tasked to load the magazines?

A: No, Sir. When we arrived Sergeant Naika told them to load the magazine.

Q288: So what I have said earlier is true?

A: No, they were told to load the magazines, but I told them not to. No one touched the weapons, it was in the zodiac all the time, we did not bring it to the island.

Q289: Corporal Tawake said the disagreement that arose there, he was in discussion with Naika and with you as a senior member. This is his statement, he said the disagreement was the wearing of uniform and entering Parliament. That was the balancing factor, whether to enter Parliament or not, what have you got to say to that?

A: I do not know anything about that, Sir.

Q290: What if I said that he said you were present there in the discussions, what will you say to that?

A: Then he must be lying, Sir.

Q291: You said you went back to Makuluva on the night, Thursday night to Friday morning, is it true? In your earlier statement, you said you have gone back, after making all the arrangements.

A: No, we met just between Nukulau and Viti Levu.

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- Q292: Remember the last time you came here to give evidence, I had told you of your troops being drifting in the water, because of the indecision of them not accepting what was to transpire the next day. You do not get it, okay I will give it back to you. The last time you were here, I had mentioned the evidence was given to this Board that your troops that were exercising in Makuluva have drifted to that area and landed at the Rewa delta.
- A: No, they did not go to the Rewa delta, I told them to get off at Makuluva and wait for us. I had pointed to Sergeant Naika that night the place where we should have met after I came back from camp.
- Q293: What if I tell you that evidence was given that they landed at Rewa Delta and actually a decision was made, they were discussing of what was to transpire, you would not be aware of it would you?
- A: Sir.
- Q294: When you returned and you met them half-way, were you carrying a mobile phone?
- A: Sir, the mobile phone was given to me by Sergeant Tikotani on Thursday night. When I came back that morning, I gave it to Sergeant Naika, we did not even use the mobile phone until we
- Q295: What was the reason for giving you a mobile phone? If you had the brief there and everything was arranged, then why carry a mobile?
- A: If there were any changes to our timings to come back to camp, they could contact us on the mobile because our communication set 39 bravo was not functioning.
- Q296: You went down and received on Thursday during the pick-up the mobile telephone, why then you had to come back all the way to camp, go up to your room and call from your room to call the complex?
- A: Because I did not want to use the mobile phone, Sir.
- Q297: Why? What is the difference when you are out there making a call from there? If you make a telephone call from the mobile telephone to the Unit, do they have the facility to know where the call is coming from?
- A: No, Sir.
- Q298: It does not make sense whether you call from that telephone or you call from any telephone at all, why come all the way back to the camp and make the call from there, when you could have just made it from an untraceable mobile telephone out at sea? Why did you come back that day, it does not gel?
- A: I was told by Tikotani not to use the mobile phone, not to ring out, but just to wait for any calls that would come in.

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- Q299: Why, go all the way up to the camp and make the call when you can just make the call from anywhere there to the Unit?
A: I had to go back to camp so that I could get my telecard which was in the room to use on the public phone, Sir.
- Q300: How many zodiacs were involved in the exercise?
A: Two zodiacs, Sir, one 15 men zodiac and 8 men zodiac.
- Q301: How many people went out to Makuluva on the exercise?
A: 14, Sir, including me.
- Q302: How many people went on each zodiac, so you said two zodiacs?
A: There were eleven on one zodiac and three on the other. Myself, Sergeant Naika and Ratu.
- Q303: When you met them halfway, did any of them off-load into your zodiac?
A: No, Sir.
- Q304: All throughout only three of you remained in one zodiac and you left 11 on the other?
A: Sir. Before that exercise when we went to Makuluva, we had our loading plans, 11 on one and three.
- Q305: Just look at the portion where it says, "Makuluva", can you confirm that that was the 14 that went to Makuluva?
A: Sir.
- Q306: Can you confirm your landing point, the first landing at?
A: The first landing was myself and Ratu and we landed at the range.
- Q307: You went up to the camp, and drove out again, is that true?
A: Sir.
- Q308: You came back, where was your landing point?
A: We got on board the zodiac at the end of this road (indicating), Viria road.
- Q309: Did you get on?
A: I got on the zodiac and I met the boys at sea and then came to the Vatuwaqa range again.
- Q310: What you are going to do Lt. Dakuliga is, this is the scenario now, you were briefed by Tikotani and Naduaniwai at the maritime, you were given live rounds, you were given ammunition above your normal scale that you take

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out, you already had weapons with you that are already out there, the briefing was given, there was some problems with your group, you had to come back to change the RV and all that. All those actions are very strange. Look at this, paint the scenario, you know on that day what happened, you are not admitting it. The difficulty to understand is Tikotani and them gave the brief, they gave you those extra weapons, we know something was amiss. You have had an argument on the boat, you change the RVs left, right and centre, we need to go back. What was told in the briefing that was given by Tikotani. Tikotani said not to call out?

A: Sir.

Q311: You, in your analytical ability as an officer was concerned, actions taken by you indicate that concern. The question go back, what was said in the brief, what exercise was done?

A: We were to meet that Friday morning at maritime at about 0900 hours. We were to meet with the rest of the Unit at 0900 hours at maritime, that was the briefing I was told. What I asked Tikotani that night, I said, "Who gave the orders? Who said for the Unit to meet there at 0900 hours?" He said it was the OC and Major Ligairi knew about it for us to meet there. I said, "Why don't we call the OC now? Why doesn't he come here and talk to me straight?" He said, "No, he has gone home", he told me to come and tell you to be ready tomorrow morning and meet here at 0900 hours.

Q312: You all meet there and go down straight for the exercise and you were all in uniform during that exercise?

A: Sir, we also had civilian clothing with us.

Q313: Lt. Dakuliga, just go back to Tuesday, 16th of May, what exactly did Major Ligairi tell you before you went on this exercise?

A: He told me that there was a march on that Friday and we had to be on stand-by if something happened that day, on Friday. He gave us our RV points and timing which he told me not to tell the boys until we were called to go to town on Friday.

Q314: Could you please inform the Board on the RV and the timings that Major Ligairi told you?

A: Sir, one of the RVs was at Bailey bridge and the other one was at the Vatuwaqa bridge.

Q315: Earlier on you said Sergeant Naika to meet you with Sergeant Tikotani and Tikotani is going to brief you, what was the nature of his brief?

A: As I have already said, Sir, he told me to take the weapons to Makuluva and get it ready by 0900 hours the next morning. We were to meet on that morning at 0900 hours at the maritime slipway.

- Q316: What do you mean by getting the weapons ready?
A: Load the magazines.
- Q317: Anything else?
A: No, Sir.
- Q318: Why did you not follow what Sergeant Tikotani said?
A: I was suspicious that night, Sir, coming from Sergeant Tikotani I did not believe him. I knew from working in the Unit with him, I knew what kind of person he was so we went back to Makuluva that night and discussed with the boys if we could go back to camp with the weapons without Sergeant Tikotani and Corporal Naduaniwai knowing it. I changed the RV that morning because I knew that Sergeant Tikotani knew that we usually get off at the slipway, that is why I changed the RV that morning, Sir.
- Q319: Thank you, Mr. Dakuliga. Can you just tell the Board what sort of person Tikotani is? You said that Sergeant Tikotani has a reputation, whatever you implied, you know what kind of person he is.
A: During my stay in the Unit, Sir, Tikotani usually comes up with many ideas which he usually influences our OC at that time, Mr. Baleinamau for the Unit to undertake, the kind of training and all that. He is also a very boastful person. He also is not respectful, he thinks that he is with Major Ligairi and the OC, he knows everything. Even the training and what goes on in the Unit, most of the thing comes from our Ops cell, Sergeant Tikotani and Corporal Naduaniwai.
- Q320: Mr. Dakuliga, thank you. Can you just confirm who heads the Operation Cell in your Unit?
A: In the Unit, Sergeant Tikotani and Corporal Naduaniwai.
- Q321: Who are they answerable to?
A: To the OC, Sir.
- Q322: Is it also true that when they are deployed for operational reasons, the only person that they report to is the OC?
A: Sir.
- Q323: Last question, Mr. Dakuliga, what took you so long to reveal all these to the Board?
A: Sir, when we went back to Makuluva after the discussions, I told the boys whatever we did that night for us to keep and not tell anyone. We had an agreement, I did not want to break that agreement, Sir. What I have come to

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know that two of my senior who were directing staff on that exercise had told the Board their stories.

Q324: Probably they were waiting for the officer to tell the story and maybe if the officer told the story, one of them would not be in Nukulau now?

A: Sir.

Q325: What do you think about that?

A: (Silence).

Q326: The fact is, I am going to make a statement and I am going to ask for your comment. What has happened, we have taken so much evidence in this Board, throughout the process, we have gone through the whole IMS except a few, one of the things that has been told to this Board is the fact that officers will come and answer here. The reluctance by the officers to come and give evidence has basically placed the lower ranks in an awkward position through the fact of what Major Gucake has said. Some of the members who have not initially planned or not initially in the preparatory stage has ended up in Nukulau and charged for treason. One of the contributing factors is because of a directive which may have been given by you or a subordinate with no one wanting to release information. You understand what I am getting at?

A: Sir.

Q327: As an officer, I am putting this to you, what is your obligation here towards the men and towards the institution?

A: As an officer towards the institution, Sir.

Q328: And towards the men, what is your obligation?

A: Could you rephrase the question, Sir.

Q329: Do you not think that you owe a duty to your men, basically lead them right?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q330: Is it not true that it is your duty to reveal to the inquiry information that may basically absolve members of your Unit from criminal acts?

A: Sir, but in the Unit whenever we go for exercises like that, we are not allowed to talk about it, any operational taskings or exercises.

Q331: I understand, we know of your Code of Conduct that exist in the Unit. But when you follow that Code of Conduct and let your men be subjected to charges such as treason and the possibility of going to prison for life or even to hang?

A: No, Sir.

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- Q332: Let us go back to the evidence. I will put it to you in no more than what you have said in this Board, the evidence you give in this Board is not only beneficial to you but to the men you have commanded. Going back to the obligation you have stated you owe to your men and to the institution, would you like to reveal further information to the Board of what was said in briefings, of what you know of the events that transpired on the morning of the 19th and any other conversations that may have transpired receiving your meeting with Tikotani and Naduaniwai. I will leave it to you now.
- A: Everything that Sergeant Tikotani told me that night, I have already told you, Sir, that we were to meet. There was no briefing of what was going to happen that morning. Only for the RV and the timings for us to meet and if there was any change in the RV or the timings, they could have contacted me on that mobile, Sir.
- Q333: Let me take you back to the morning of the 19th, when you got into the mini-bus, you still had doubts of what was to transpire on that day, is that not true?
- A: Sir.
- Q334: That is the reason you got off at the junction of Sukanaivalu Rd and Ratu Mara Rd, is it true?
- A: Yes, Sir.
- Q335: During the whole process, was there any conversation made between you, your OC or any members that were present on that day?
- A: Before we boarded the mini-bus, I told the OC, "What is the exercise about?" He said he did not know anything about it. I asked him, "Where are we going?" He told me, "To maritime". I told him about Thursday night and that I had the weapons back at the base. He said, "Don't worry, Major Ligairi is waiting for us at the maritime, let's go", so when I saw the two civilians in the mini-bus, I felt uncomfortable so when we came down to the junction, we got off.
- Q336: The last time you gave evidence, you said after that you went and stayed in your room at the Officers Mess.
- A: On Friday night, I went back to the room.
- Q337: Were you overcome by any guilt that made you stay in the Officers Mess?
- A: What guilt, Sir?
- Q338: Why did you stay at the Officers Mess, why not go back to the Unit? What made you stay there?

- A: Because I came to know that the Unit was involved in the coup so I kept myself out. None of the men who went that morning knew what was going to happen, Sir.
- Q339: The soldiers in the Unit had not known what was to transpire, was there anything that could have been done to basically assist them or make them change their minds in getting involved in an act which may lead to some criminal
- A: Sir, when we got off the mini-bus, Mr. Tuivanuavou and myself told the boys to get off also. But I think they saw that the OC was inside the van so they did not get off.
- Q340: Who were the soldiers with you in the van?
- A: Sergeant Naika, Trooper Nawaqa and OC.
- Q341: What about the members of your exercise that came from Makuluva, were they in the van too?
- A: Sergeant Naika and Nawaqa, Sir.
- Q342: What about Raivalu?
- A: I did not see him that morning, Sir.
- Q343: Liganivai?
- A: No, Sir.
- Q344: Sir, let us go back to Thursday night on the 18th, what time did you call Mr. Ravai from the Officers Mess?
- A: I cannot recall the time, but it was the early hours of Friday morning.
- Q345: Did you ask for Mr. Bainimoli?
- A: No, Sir, I just told him about the change in our RV.
- Q346: On Friday, could you exactly say to the Board when you told OC about the weapons on Thursday night, what did he say back to you?
- A: He just said, "Okay, never mind leave it as it is, let us go".
- Q347: Does that mean to you that he knew about the weapons being taken to Makuluva on Thursday night?
- A: I believe he did not know anything about it.
- Q348: He did not believe or believe?
- A: I do not believe he knew anything about the weapons being taken out to Makuluva on that night.

- Q349: Whose that?
A: The OC.
- Q350: You said you told OC that weapons were taken out on Thursday night, you told him on Friday?
A: Sir.
- Q351: What did he say?
A: He said, "Okay, never mind just leave it and let us go".
- Q352: What did you tell him about the weapons? You said that weapons were taken out on Thursday night and you had brought it back on Friday morning.
A: Sir.
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- Q353: What was his reaction to that?
A: That was all he said. I think he was told about us RV-ing at maritime at a short notice because he told us to go and change quickly into civilian clothing and come back. When we came back, the mini-bus was there, we did not have any time to
- Q354: But was he aware of the weapons being given to you on Thursday night?
A: I told him that morning, Sir.
- Q355: You told him on Friday morning when you returned?
A: Sir.
- Q356: What was his reaction?
A: He said, "Okay, just leave it like that and let us go for this exercise".
- Q357: When you returned on Friday morning, you took it straight to the armoury, where did the weapons go to? The weapons that you took out in the sand bags.
A: To the armoury, Sir.
- Q358: And you returned it?
A: Sir.
- Q359: Was it signed out or when you took it back, did you sign anything on it?
A: No, Sir.
- Q360: Just took it and put it?
A: Sir.

Q361: How did you put it back inside the armoury, in the bags or you took it out of the bags and put it back on the rack?

A: Yes, I took it out of the bags.

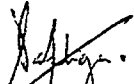
Q362: Just confirm the time you rang Mr. Ravai, is it around 3.30 in the morning?

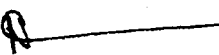
A: Yes, Sir.

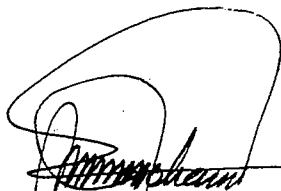
Q363: Lt. Dakuliga, we have gone through 100 witnesses, we have so much details. As we sit, there is a court martial sitting on that side, the amount of people and assets involved in this is massive. We have got to stop some time. What we will do, we will give you another chance, go out there, re-think your position and anything you need to pass on to this Board, you make an indication and we will come back in today. You have lunch and indicate if you have any further information then you can pass it on to us after lunch and we will come back inside and recall you. But failing that, have a nice day and have a nice life.


Mr. Dakuliga, if you were the OC of the Unit, what would be your reaction if someone told you that weapons were taken out on Thursday or the night before and someone is telling you the day after?

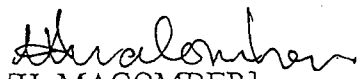
A: If I was the OC, I could have conducted an investigation as to what happened.


[C. DAKULIGA]
Lieutenant


[J. N. B. EVANS]
Lieutenant Colonel
President


[A. MOHAMMED]
Major
Member


[T. GUCAKE]
Major
Member


[H. MACOMBER]
Warrant Officer Class One
Member

THIRTY-THIRD WITNESSSTATEMENT BY 20107 WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE A WAQANIBORO

WOI Waqaniboro, after having been duly sworn on the Bible hereby states:

Sir, I joined the RFMF in August, 1975 because of disciplinary ground, I left in 1978 and rejoined in June, 1980 and I have been serving with RFMF ever since. I have been here from 1987 until now.

Q1: Mr. Waqaniboro could you give us your involvement on the events of 19th May, the takeover of Parliament, prior to that, your involvement in the Unit of the preparation for this event, what took place on the 19th May and the events after the 19th May until the time that you were brought in to the camp?

A: Sir, I was posted from the Unit to HQ until the events of 19th May. I had nothing to do with the preparation and planning. While serving I came up to the Operation Centre as I tried to go out to the bank on early Friday and I was stopped at the main gate. According to the instructions no one was allowed out, only then did I realise that something was up. I had wanted to go out to the bank and observed the march out in Suva. I came up to the National Operations Centre and met with the duty officer and asked him to give us a brief. The brief he gave us was that there was a military coup conducted by the civilians and some military personnel were involved. During the exchange I came to realise that our guys were involved, the members of the IMS. That was my involvement.

I stayed in camp for more than one week. After that, I was used as liaison between headquarters and the people in Parliament. The first time that I went down to Parliament was on the night of 19th. I was sent down to Parliament by the Commander Land Force, Lt. Col. Tara and Lt. Col. Raduva to have a talk with the Old Man. I was under the impression that the Old Man had requested more arms. They sent me down there to tell Na Qase that they could not release any arms, they cannot authorise that, the agreement they made stayed. I went there and had a talk with Na Qase for about 2 to 3 hours before I came back. I briefed the Colonels that night and I stayed manning the office of the Land Force Commander, the PSO, the Commander was not there, from whole Saturday night to early Sunday morning. The Commander arrived on Sunday, that was the 21st. He saw me and Mr. Baleinamau, he told us that he wanted to have a talk with the remaining men of the IMS. I accompanied Lt. Baleinamau down to the complex, while the Commander spoke to the men and he spoke to us on what had happened. From the impression I had, he had been briefed during his arrival and he knew all the details. He spoke to us for only about three to four minutes before he went back. I remember the Commander telling us that if we are in support of it, we will have to apply for leave. Later on I spoke with DALs, following that up and he said that that was the thing that we have to do, apply for leave. I stayed in camp for another week, my men were involved and I had trained with them for more than 10 years, not only that, the men that I helped trained. I am a Warrant Officer Class 1 in the Unit, a very

senior member. I started off as one of the first recruits of the Unit. I knew how the boys think. I knew how the Old Man think, I worked closely with him. I handed over my appointment as the GSM to Mr. Ramafono. There was no time for a written hand over. We were so caught up with the events by then, I had spent a lot of my time with the men in the Unit and because I was still being used as the liaison between headquarters and Parliament, I was doing a lot of running around.

During a brief by the Force Commander to WOs and Senior NCOs, I also told the Sergeants and WOs that I was handing over my appointment. I left the camp, Sir, on Sunday 26th I believe or 28th for the Parliament Complex. I stayed there until the incident in Kalabu where I was hospitalised until todate. That is about it, Sir.

Q2: Were you given any brief or directive to go and join those at the Parliament Complex?

A: No, Sir, I was not given any brief, I went on my own accord. I had a lot of leave days, so I just took my leave and went down there.

Q3: Your discussions with Major Ligairi on the 21st of May, what transpired during the discussions and what was discussed?

A: I asked the Old Man what is going on, I think this is in regard to the arms. We are familiar with the Unit SOP because I was surprised when I was told that he requested more arms and the Old Man told me that he did not request any arms and he had nothing to do with that request. That is about it, Sir.

Q4: When you went down to the complex, what was your job at the complex?

A: General liaising between the complex and headquarters, our military people and mostly the civilians who were there.

Q5: At the complex, did you at any time go into the Operation Room?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q6: In the Operation Room who was in command there?

A: I cannot really say who was in command in the Operation Room. Of course, I do not just want to say it was standard SOP.

Q7: What is the standard SOP?

A: No revealing of names

Q8: Mr. Waqaniboro, who do the IMS come under? Who directs the IMS? Under whose authority is the IMS set up?

A: We have the Director and OCs.

Q9: Who's in overall command of the IMS?

A: It should have been the OC, Sir.

Q10:

Being a Warrant Officer in the military, you would know that the OC is not in overall command, overall in command is the Commander of the RFMF. Authorised activities done within the Unit is done by the IMS under the directive of the OC of the Unit up to the Director then to Commander RFMF. In a crisis situation, information is not released under crisis situation, people are not authorised to receive that information. If you are taken as a hostage, or taken as a prisoner by the enemy, certain amount of details are authorised to be released, the naming of the members, and other information are not given. This Board of Inquiry sits under the directive of the Commander RFMF. This Board of Inquiry has the authority to hear all those information and receive the answers of the questions that are asked. We are authorised to do that. I understand what you are saying, but this is not a legal body, this is a group of officers and a warrant officer selected to find out information on this. We have received information from half, you are the 33rd person brought up here. We have received information from Lt. Dakai, Lt. Baleinamau and Lt. Dakuliga. That Code of Conduct does not apply here, look back at your Unit and what that Unit represents. That Unit is an off-shoot of the British SAS. The British SAS on official request are authorised to give certain information that are asked by the inquest or inquiry if it is done. Inquiries are given in different forms in a closed court or in an open court. Inquiries are given with people in balaclava but people are authorised to give certain information that is asked within the Fiji IMS. Within the Fiji IMS, every Tom, Dick and Harry in Fiji and Rotuma knows who is in the IMS. We are not as clandestine as the other forces.

You are the 33rd witness and the witness may go even to hundreds, it is a possibility, it may spanned the whole of the RFMF. It may also spanned the whole of the Police Force and the whole information gathered by the Police to date. We can go on and talk and have this inquiry for a few hours, for a few days, a few weeks or even a few months, but as President of this inquiry, let me indicate to you at the end of it, to the best of our ability, we will find out all the information that is necessary. At the end of this inquiry, whether we will recommend other inquiries, that is another story, I cannot make at this point. That is another point. But for the terms of reference given to this Board, we will ask the necessary questions that needs to be answered. The questions that we are asking you, members within your Unit, people much senior to you has already given. We are reopening that question. If you look before you, these are the notes that I have taken from people that have come before the Board, let alone the verbatim reporting that is done there is about four times or even five times I have here. Most of the information that you will give here, are already given and names have already been given.

I will now commence by asking you questions I hope for human decency and the decency of RFMF that you will answer the questions. Being a Warrant Officer, the protection of the RFMF, the people and the nature of your line of duty I am sure is paramount. We are here to all serve our Unit or the Army. We have dedicated most

of our life for that service. Along those lines, if you understand where I am coming from, which I am sure you do understand, the gravity of the situation or the gravity of what has happened and the magnitude of it you understand. What has happened is not a role and the role of that Unit and what was done is two different things. Let those decide later on what was done and what should be done later on. I would like to proceed and continue with the questioning that we hope we have your support in answering the questions where it should be answered. If you have, I would advise you to go back to who authorises you to give the information, you either go back to your OC if you have difficulty or you are not sure, you go back to your Director. Ultimately the guy comes under the direct orders of the Commander RFMF, go back and ask. We will continue now with the questions. We both know the doctrine of unconventional warfare, within the complex, there are definitely three organisations, the military wing, the vanua wing and the political wing. Who was the head of the military wing within the complex?

A: It is the Old Man.

Q11: Who was the head of the political wing?

A: Dakai was in charge of that so he is responsible for it.

Q12: Who was the head of the Vanua wing?

A: I had problems with that, Sir. The organisation of the vanua is done by the vanua themselves. There are a lot of turagas there, I do not really know who is in charge of the vanua because it seems to change everyday, people coming in and people responsible for those changes.

Q13: What was George Speight in this whole situation?

A: The way I saw it, George Speight was responsible for the talks between the military (people in the Veiuto complex), the Bose Levu Vakaturaga and the Committee. He was involved in that, Sir.

Q14: Who was in overall command of the operation cell in the complex?

A: It is the Old Man.

Q15: Who was in overall command of the Int. Cell in the operation cell?

A: Lt. Dakai was in charge of it, Sir.

Q16: Who was in overall command or control of the security for the hostages?

A: I believe, Sir, that it is Ssgt Ravulo one of the seniors in the Unit.

Q17: Who was in overall command of the outer perimeter securing the complex?

A: It was left to Corporal Kalounivale.

Q18: Did you at any time during this whole event carry a weapon?

A: Yes, Sir.

- Q19: What weapon did you carry?
A: It was a Uzis.
- Q20: Did you at any time during this whole event, fire that weapon whether training or in action?
A: No, Sir.
- Q21: Did you at any time during this whole event leave the Parliament Complex?
A: No, Sir, I was there from the day I joined until we left.
- Q22: Being in the complex, did you or anyone within the operation cell or otherwise talk to anyone or any other persons of the IMS that were not part of the IMS in the complex, but were based at QEB?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q23: Who did you talk to?
A: I remembered talking to Lt. Baleinamau, SSgt. Paul Vakadranu, Warrant Officer Class 1 Bainimoli. I believe those were the key elements in QEB that I talked to.
- Q24: What was the nature of the discussions?
A: Mostly briefing, Sir, of what was going on down there.
- Q25: During any of these discussions, were any briefings given by these personnel named of what was happening in QEB or within the Army in general? Were any briefings given by the personnel that you have just named about what was happening in RFMF? Was any of the briefings passed on to you?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q26: Did you or anyone else in the complex (we will refer to the 'complex' as the Parliament Complex, when we refer to the 'Unit', we will refer to the Unit back at QEB) talked with anyone apart from IMS members in the RFMF?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q27: Can you give us the names of the persons you spoke to?
A: I remember talking with the CO 3FIR and also there is a Captain in Transport with regards to some vehicles that were seized by the civilians and those were the two that I spoke to. I remember ringing Lt. Col. Caucau up with regards to the questions about the leave. Those were the three that I remember talking to.
- Q28: What was the nature of your discussions with CO 3FIR?
A: This was after the main shoot out in the complex down there, Sir. One of our guys got injured and I requested his help. The night had fallen and according to reports

by civilians two of the men has been injured and they were still lying down in the ground somewhere at Suva Grammar, I then rang CO 3FIR. I requested if we could help each other in trying to locate these people who are either seriously injured or could even be dead. No only that, I was informed by one of the civilians that Police has taken down more than 10 young men from the complex and if the CO 3 could use his influence on the Police and find out what is going on. They have not been charged. That is what has happened.

Q29: What was the outcome of that discussion?

A The CO 3 assured me that he has about six or eight (I do not know the actually number) young men from Wainibuka. He has them up in his house. He has fed them and he intended to send them back home the next morning. As for the people down with the Police, they are not going to be charged. They should be sent home the next morning. Not only that, we did combined patrol that night with some of the 3FIR personnel trying to locate those who were not taken, it was confirmed that they did run away.

Q30: These persons that were taken up to CO 3FIR house from Wainibuka, were they involved in the shoot out?

A They were part of the young men who were playing in the ground at Suva Grammar and they were caught during the shoot out.

Q31: Who was the Captain from the Transport that you spoke to?

A I cannot remember his name.

Q32: Let me throw a few names at you, Captain Tamani, Captain Colati

A Captain Colati, Sir.

Q33: What was the nature of your discussions with Captain Colati?

A Sir, Captain Colati rang me up and requested if I could see to two landcruisers belonging to the Transport Board. Two vehicles were commandeered by the civilians down there, this was two days prior I believe. I have made contact with the people in camp and some civilians to find out about the vehicles. I checked it and there were two vehicles belonging to them, so I called him and told him to send a team down to get the vehicles.

Q34: Were you involved in any of the discussions between the complex personnel, this is to involve civilians, military and the discussions with any of the RFMF personnel that went in to the complex that was not part of those in the complex? Were you involved in any of those discussions?

A Yes, Sir, I was involved.

Q35: Could you give us the names of those personnel who went in for discussions in the complex, RFMF personnel?

A I remember a team being brought in by Captain Suliano in 3FIR. They came in one night with their sevusevu. After the presentation of their sevusevu, we sat down and I had one or two bowls before I left, they were still there. Not only that, I was with the team that came over from RFMF, Col. Cerewale, Col. Waqanisau and Col. Sarasau. I was not with them for long, Sir, and mostly individuals. I remember meeting WO2 Qiodamu, he came down to see his people and have ad hoc talks there. A lot of junior ranks and I do not know their names, they came over to say hello and some of them I took around the complex.

36: What was the nature of discussions made with Capt. Suliano when he went into the complex or the purpose of his visit?

A He was in charge of the people immediately outside Veiuto and they had been in touch with a lot of our civilians. There had been problems with our civilians so we were very fortunate that Capt. Suliano was there. They were the go-between between these people and the Police.

The Police had been there doing a lot of harassment on the civilian population. It has been on a daily basis that we came in contact and I had a talk with our guys to go down to the soldiers, do a sevusevu, sit down and have a talk with them. We did that and they reciprocated. They came over, sat down and had grog. That is all, Sir.

Q37: What was the nature of the discussions made with the military team that included Waqanisau, Cerewale and the other lot?

A I was not involved in any discussions after that, but I was listening to the presentation of the yaqona and from what I heard, they are with what is happening down in Veiuto but from now on the military is going to take over with the running of the Government.

Q38: Mr. Waqaniboro, just for clarification, when you arrived at the Parliament Complex, how did you come in to have a weapon for yourself? Were you given one or did you go somewhere and got one?

A: No, Sir, in fact I requested one of the boys that was on duty if I could have a weapon, I think that was about 2.30 in the morning. We have been receiving a lot of reports and threatening calls and not only that, I could see that there was a split within. What I mean here is that I have seen a threatening air within the complex by mostly young men and our men. It is normal to go around and check our guys up so I requested that for my own personal safety. I had to go where the civilians are and I had to go where the hostages are and this is our main worry, Sir, because there was only one or two guys looking after the hostages. I want one for my own personal safety.

Q39: Can you recall where these weapons were kept in the complex?

A Yes, Sir.

- Q40: What was the security arrangements for these weapons?
A: Very well, they all come under our Old Man.
- Q41: Can you explain to us like in the normal military system we have like an armourer who released the weapon once it is issued. Did you have the same system in place?
A: Yes, we have the same system, Sir.
- Q42: Were civilians permitted to carry weapons in the complex?
A: Later on I heard, Sir, I had a talk with Col. Tara. I spoke up "what are the civilians doing with the weapons?" I do not really know, Sir, if that is true in this case here, but for the first two or three weeks, there were no civilians with weapons, it was only our guys. Most of our guys had been out there, and they may look like civilians. I never witnessed one civilian with weapons.
- Q43: Do you recall the day the engineer soldiers marched into camp?
A: I recall that, Sir.
- Q44: Were you there when they were issued weapons?
A: I was still in the camp.
- Q45: When you arrived in the complex, what was the role of Major Savua?
A: He was doing a lot of liaising with the vanua, the Police, and also our people in camp. He was in charge of the logistic wing.
- Q46: Did you get to read newspapers and television coverage?
A: Yes, on a daily basis.
- Q47: You would recall there was an order of ultimatum put out by Commander that all service personnel in Parliament to return to camp by a certain date, did you get that information?
A: I got that, Sir.
- Q48: Was this issue discussed amongst the soldiers in the complex?
A: It was discussed at all levels.
- Q49: What was the general impression in the complex?
A: To stay in the complex.
- Q50: Am I correct in saying that this was an individual decision made by persons?
A: It was an individual decision.
- Q51: Getting back to the incident that happened in Suva Grammar, the civilians were escorted down by persons who carried weapons. Would you be able to confirm who those persons were carrying weapons?

- A: From our side, there was one guy Vosavere. Vosavere went down there when one of the civilians was shot so Vosavere went in, Sir, with a weapon. It was standard SOP down there that no one leaves the complex with weapons. The way I saw it, Vosavere was forced to do that because by then two of the guys went down. He came in with his pistol and later on I heard during the discussions that he thought he was known to the outside (from our guys) he did take his weapon out, that is when he got shot. I was one of those who came in later.
- Q52: The other incident that happened, remember this group that went down to the TV station. It was alleged that they were escorted down. Are you aware of that incident?
- A: Not until very late, Sir. I knew there was chaos going on, I saw this large gathering, I knew something was about to happen.
- Q53: This gathering, where did it take place in the complex?
- A: Right beside the main gate, about 500 to 600 young men.
- Q54: Was this group also escorted by armed personnel?
- A: I was not aware of that until they got back.
- Q55: Did you confirm that they were being escorted?
- A: I did confirm this with one of my guys. One of my guys told me.
- Q56: Would you be able to tell us who the person is?
- A: I think it was Corporal Kalounivale.
- Q57: The other incident is the death of a police officer, do you know where the shots were fired from?
- A: Sir, I was in the complex all this time and what I heard that it was a ricochet or something like that. That was all I heard.
- Q58: Were you told who discharged the weapon in that incident.
- A: I tried to get that, but I could not get that.
- Q59: How did the people feel about the incident?
- A: The way I saw it with our guys, Sir, it did not go down too well with them because our orders were no confrontation and no bloodshed. That was the orders down there to our guys.
- Q60: You had a mixture of service persons in the complex, the IMS, then you have the Engineers, there was this other lot there which may have included certain reserves and TF persons. Was there a standard rules of engagement for all these persons in the complex?
- A: I cannot give a definitive answer to that. I do not deal with these people.

- Q61: Did you have O groups and briefings?
A: Yes, we did have O groups in the morning at 8 o'clock.
- Q62: For all military persons?
A: Yes, for all our guys.
- Q63: Who conducted these O groups?
A: The Old Man, in some cases I do that.
- Q64: What date did you leave the parliamentary complex?
A: It was on a Wednesday or Thursday.
- Q65: Were you there for the funeral?
A: I was there.
- Q66: When these weapons were returned to persons from QEB, were all weapons accounted for?
A: From our end, as far as we are concerned, Sir, all weapons were accounted for.
- Q67: Would you know of anyone who may have a weapon for personal security? There are still some weapons missing, you have heard of it?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q68: Would you know of certain persons who may be keeping weapons for personal safety?
A: I have never met one for me to actually see the weapon, but I have had a lot of talks with people outside, they have weapons, that is what they told me, although I did not see any, Sir. The general talks is that there are weapons out there.
- Q69: Although you went in late to Parliament, you have had discussions amongst the group in here, would you be able to tell us the first group that went in to Parliament? Could you repeat that please?
A:
- Q70: Who were the members of IMS that initially went in?
A: Sir, in fact I only came to know a member who came here when I saw him on TV, Corporal Tikotani when he got interviewed. I approached him, I told him you compromise the whole group. He was the only one that I knew that went in.
- Q71: You must have discussed this and names may have been mentioned who went in with Tikotani, would you be able to tell us the other peoples names who have been mentioned?
A: Apart from Tikotani, I heard that WO Ravai was involved and I believe Corporal Naika too, I cannot confirm this.

- Q72: What weapons were carried in the complex?
A Uzis, Sir, AK47 and M16, pistols.
- Q73: Did you meet Naika, Soko
A Yes, I met them, Sir.
- Q74: What weapons were they carrying?
A I saw Soko with a pistol. In the case of Naika, some days I saw him with a Uzis, some other days I saw him with a M16.
- Q75: Was there any AK47 around the complex?
A Not in the complex.
- Q76: When you went into the complex, did you speak with Major Ligairi as to the reason for the takeover?
A The only time that I had discussions with him, Sir, was when I first went in on Friday night. I had some discussions with him about the takeover.
- Q77: Did he give you reasons?
A He did not give me any specific reason but the fact that his men were involved. He went in to try and control things. That is the way I saw it. He controlled things down at the complex.
- Q78: You are implying, the way you read the situation, Major Ligairi only went in to the complex because IMS people were involved and to control things? That is the indication you are giving.
A: That is the way I saw it, Sir.
- Q79: What role did Col. Bukarau play in the complex?
A: Col. Bukarau was mostly involved in the political discussions.
- Q80: Remember there is a sentry post up in the Battery Hill?
A: Yes.
- Q81: Do you know of the arrangements of sentry duties up there, how were they relieved and who was located up there?
A: I do not know the actual things, but only some details.
- Q82: When you were arrested in Kalabu, did you resist arrest?
A: Sir, you do not resist arrest with all those guns pointing at you, none of us ever resisted arrest, from the Old Man up to the small girl who was there.
- Q83: You were beaten up?
A: Yes, five broken ribs and one of them punctured my lungs.

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- Q84: Can you identify the person who did that to you?
A: No, but I have been given names.
- Q85: Once you were in the Parliament House and subsequently put under arrest, did you continue to receive your normal pay?
A: I was not paid for three or four pay days.
- Q86: Are you aware of this pay week, whether you have been paid?
A: I think that I have been paid, but I have not been to the bank yet.
- Q87: Were you aware of the weapons that were taken out from IMS and taken to the complex?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q88: Who directed the weapons to be taken out from the IMS?
A: I do not know who gave the directive but I saw all those weapons in the complex.
- Q89: Did you witness the weapons being taken out of QEB?
A: No, Sir.
- Q90: While at the complex, did you see any weapon training being conducted down there with the civilians?
A: Yes, Sir once or twice. It is not weapon training, from what I saw, they were just being shown the general parts of the weapons, they just feel and touch.
- Q91: Being shown and describe, isn't being 'shown' describe the characteristics of weapon training?
A: They would just have a feel, that is all not the actual weapon training. It went on for about one or two days.
- Q92: What was done, the weapons were being shown to civilians and were explained to civilians?
A: No, Sir. The way I saw it is this, they would just have a feel and it is the next person.
- Q93: On the night of the 19th before you went down to the Parliament Complex, where were you and what were you actually doing?
A: Sir, I was in the office of the Land Force Commander and actually manning the seat of the PSO.
- Q94: While manning that office, did you come in contact with any other military personnel?

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- A: Yes, Sir. The Land Force Commander Col. Tuatoko, Lt. Col. Tara, Lt. Col. Raduva, the FSM and the PSO.
- Q95: Can you tell this Board, what transpired if any manner of conversation took place?
A: They called me, Sir, into the office of the Land Force Commander and they directed me to go down to the Parliament Complex and find out from the Old Man why did he order more weapons. We sat down for about 15 minutes to 20 minutes. After our discussions, then I remember asking them "I do not really think that the Old Man would do that, to ask for more weapons." In the end, I had to find out what happened.
- Q96: The only reason you went down there was to question why more weapons was ordered from the complex?
A: It was ordered by the Old Man and they had an agreement on Friday morning, that agreement stayed. I do not know what the agreement was. I believe that the same weapons they were using were to remain the same.
- Q97: While also up at the RFMF before you went down to the Parliament Complex were you given any indication whatsoever or a feeling that the RFMF was in support of those people down at the Parliament Complex?
A: No, Sir, not that night.
- Q98: Any other nights?
A: As time goes on, I remember seeing our people from RFMF down at the complex, some came for their own reasons. However, I saw that there was an overwhelming support from the RFMF.
- Q99: Was this support mainly from soldiers or WOs and Senior NCOs or officers?
A: I see support mostly from the non-commissioned ranks.
- Q100: Mr. Waqaniboro, can you tell this court where were you on the night of Saturday 20th May?
A: I was in the office of the Land Force Commander drinking yaqona.
- Q101: Who was there with you?
A: The FSM, Lt. Col. Tara, Lt. Col. Raduva and the Land Force Commander himself.
- Q102: What was the nature of this discussion?
A: Generally, what was going on.
- Q103: Were you aware of a brief that was given at your previous Unit by Lt. Col. Tarakinikini on the night of the 19th?
A: No, Sir.

- Q104: You indicated that you assumed that there was numerous support given by the personnel of RFMF to the activities down at the Parliament Complex, can you expand on that?
- A: Sir, I cannot name names here because I do not know them, but they were serving members.
- They come down to the complex, they sleep over night and they take off back to the camp the next morning. I have had talks with a lot of guys. It is very encouraging. These are some of the things that goes on that gives me the indication that support is there.
- Q105: These persons that came down and showed their support, were they other ranks or officers or both?
- A: I remember some officers coming down there, whatever they were doing there, I do not know. As for the non-commissioned ranks, yes they did have their support.
- Q106: Mr. Waqaniboro, you told this Board that you were close to the Old Man and that is why they sent you down on the night that headquarters received that he wanted extra weapons to be sent down. With the close relationship or friendship, surely you can share confidence of information between you. You also told this Board that the Old Man went in there to control the boys that went in to Parliament. Is that not right?
- A: Yes.
- Q107: Surely, he would have told you who ordered the IMS to storm Parliament, can we have names?
- A: We did not discuss that particular thing. I did not ask him, had he wanted to tell me, he would have told me and knowing the Old Man even though we have stayed close for so long, there are information that he kept to himself.
- Q108: If he did not request for the extra arms, in your experience as a Senior NCO, do you think there is a man between him and headquarters RFMF that requested these arms because he did not say that he requested the arms?
- A: What he told me was that he did not request for any arms so what came into mind, this is my own thinking, Sir, and let me make this very very clear, that someone is trying to come in between the Old Man or our Unit RFMF. Someone is trying to upset the whole thing. This was one of the things that kept bothering me, who is the hidden man here? What is he trying to do?
- Q109: Did this come by a telephone conversation or fax?
- A: None of the Colonels told me how the request came about. I was told that "the Old Man has requested for this, find out why and tell the Old Man that we cannot go back to what we agreed to."

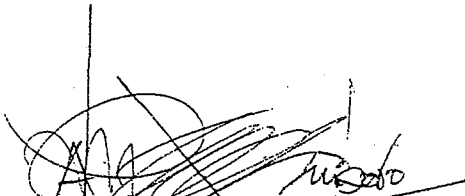
- Q110: Whilst in the complex, you were still being supplied with foodstuff by IMS back at QEB?
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q111: What other commodities were you supplied with by your Unit?
A: Just a change of clothes.
- Q112: What assurance did you get as to your return to QEB after the settlement at the Kalabu complex, what did you think of returning back to normal duties?
A: We were not given any assurance, Sir, the only assurance that I had was that we were covered under the Immunity Decree of the 19th May. That was the only assurance. I had never been told, but that is my understanding.
- Q113: Who gave you the brief as to the Decree and the provisions of it?
A: It was out in the papers.
- Q114: Did you get that briefing from your legal team in the complex as to the aspects you are covered for?
A: I have not talked with the legal team, I had been in the hospital ever since.
- Q115: What I am referring to whether there was a briefing done in the complex?
A: No, Sir.
- Q116: Who is in charge of the weapons in the complex?
A: I believe, Sir, it is Ssgt Ravulo. Why I said this because everytime I go down there, I see he is there.
- Q117: In your armoury?
A: Yes and his got his own man, Bukasila.
- Q118: When you went to draw your weapon, supposedly from these two gentlemen, Ravulo and Bukasila because they are registered there.
A: Yes, Sir.
- Q119: When you entered the complex, were all weapons in the complex in that had registered?
A: From my understanding, yes.
- Q120: You have been in the IMS for so many years, you know all the weapons in the IMS arsenal. Were any weapons that you saw there not part of the IMS weapons, any at all whether it was carried by civilians or any other member?
A: No, Sir, from what I see, the weapons that were used by our men were our weapons.


Q126: What we will do, Mr. Waqaniboro, the information you have given us, we had quite a long bash, we may recall you later and also other members. A lot of people as we piece information together but before we release you, do you wish to say any other thing before the Board? Do you wish to add any other thing that you may have missed or you would like to add?

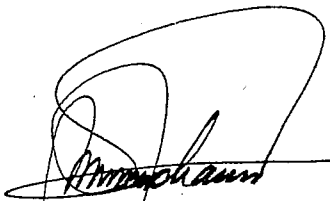
A Off the record.

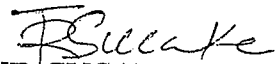
Q127: No, everything is on the record once the Board sit, but would you like to say anything else before we release you?

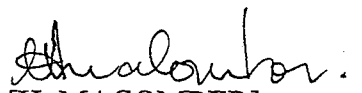
A: Just on minor things, I may seem to have withhold information, that is not my intention here. I apologise for that, that is about it.


[A. WAQANIBORO]
Warrant Officer Class One


[J. N. B. EVANS]
Lieutenant Colonel
President


[A. MOHAMMED]
Major
Member


[T. GUCAKE]
Major
Member


[H. MACOMBER]
Warrant Officer Class One
Member