

Oral and Written submissions to the  
Standing Committee for Social Affairs  
November 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 by Fuata Jione.

Reference: Rotuma bills 6 & 7 2015.

Acknowledgement.

To The Traditional and Indigenous land owners of the Fiji Islands.

To The Traditional and Indigenous land owners of the Rotuma Islands and its dependencies.

To the honourable member and High Chief Ro Teimumu Kepa, Leader of the opposition for tabling the Petition on behalf of Rotumans opposing the two Rotuma bills before the Fiji parliament.

**RECEIVED**

30 NOV 2016

**To the Government of the day and the Fiji parliament for providing a mechanism for Rotumans to submit their views.**

**To the honourable members of the Standing Committee task to look into the Petition and report to the Parliament of Fiji.**

**To the honourable member Niko Nawaikula.**

**And to the President of Sodelpa Sitiveni Rabuka for their submission and contribution to the dispute against the two bills before the Fiji Parliament.**

**Person appearing Before the Standing Committee.**

**Name : Fuata Pene Jione.**

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**Background history of me is contained in the letter dated July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 to the Prime Minister of Fiji and the current President before his appointment as Head of State.**

*The first submission is on behalf of the Rotuman Community of Queensland.*

*This submission represents the full knowledge and agreement of those signed in the attached addendum.*

**The second submission is from the family of Fuata Jione of 24 sylvan avenue Brisbane Australia.**

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**The three main issues with the Rotuma bills before the Parliament are summarised below.**

- **The powers of the Rotuma Island Council who are the voice of the people of Rotuma since 1881 when Rotuma came under the British and colonial administration.**
- **The registration of land and land ownership in Rotuma.**
- **The definition of Rotuma Island and its dependencies.**

**These are the three main areas that form the core of Rotuma's existence since 1881 that properly prescribe the current Rotuma laws until the proposed laws were tabled in the Fiji parliament on May 2015 removing the powers of the Rotuma Island Council, changing the way of land ownership and registration in Rotuma, and removing the legally defined definition of Rotuma Island and its dependency archipelago that Rotuma claimed since 1881 and is entitled to redefine the sea boundaries under the UN laws of the sea convention that Fiji signed in 1982.**

**It is our position as submitted in oral and written submission today before this honourable standing committee that, we the undersigned as Indigenous people and landowners of Rotuma Island seeking the full withdrawal of the two Rotuma Bills before the Fiji Parliament so further and wider consultation is given to make amendments if any to any laws that will affect Rotumans from the current and existing laws.**

**Thank you and God bless you.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name or set of initials.

30TH NOVEMBER 2016.