

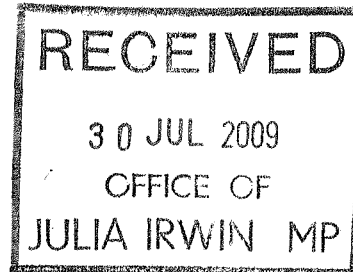


THE HON STEPHEN SMITH MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

21 JUL 2009

Mrs Julia Irwin MP
Chair - Standing Committee on Petitions
Federal Member for Fowler
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Julia
Dear ~~Madam~~ Chair

Thank you for your letter dated 24 June 2009 about a petition submitted regarding Fiji.

The Government remains gravely concerned about developments in Fiji. The military regime continues to show contempt for the political and human rights and future prosperity of the people of Fiji. In conjunction with friends and partners in the Pacific, the Australian Government will do everything it can to return Fiji to democracy and the rule of law.

Thank you for bringing this petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Smith