



Working to help Fiji break out of its 'Coup Cycle'

Fiji has been through another tumultuous year, with national elections in May 2006 followed by a coup on 5 December. Concerted efforts are underway to develop a national consensus that will return Fiji to representative constitutional democracy.

The roots of the conflict lie in the unresolved problems from the last coup, combined with poorly administered elections, the government's introduction of controversial policy bills, and the general failure of official and unofficial third parties to adequately deal with these various factors.

Conciliation Resources' long-standing partners, the Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF), played a dynamic role in attempting to prevent the conflict and in influencing the 'roadmap' back to democratic governance. Outspoken in the public arena, and active in their rural educational outreach work, the CCF helped both to raise the level of public participation in national debates and to drum up international attention. CR assisted them in strategic planning and lent a hand in their international work – including in the visit of CCF's Executive Director Rev Akuila Yabaki to Europe following the coup and in his engagements with the European Union and the Commonwealth.

Right: December 2006 saw Fiji's fourth coup in 20 years © Fiji Times. Left: A CCF workshop for women and young people

Peacebuilding networks

CR continues to play an active role as a member of national and global peacebuilding networks including the Committee for Conflict Transformation Support, the UK Peace and Security Liaison Group and the US-based Alliance for Peacebuilding.

CR also takes part in initiatives led by the Berghof Research Center, International Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and the Barcelona School for a Culture of Peace, amongst others.

Developing responsive capacities

CR continues to receive requests to support initiatives outside the regions where we have ongoing programmes.

We are working to develop our capacities to respond more flexibly to such requests, while not walking away from our many existing commitments.

In 2006, CR was asked to help support a civil society peace initiative in Kashmir. We gave advisory support for the design and development of this initiative and helped to broker relations between individuals and organizations, including potential partners and donors.

CR is privileged to share an office with the International Working Group on Sri Lanka (IWG). IWG is actively engaged in supporting the faltering peace processes and international initiatives that help safeguard human rights and the 'space' for humanitarian assistance in Sri Lanka. CR provides the IWG with occasional strategic advice and support.