



1. Who is Ratu Inoke Takiveikata, is he currently serving life imprisonment and, if so, why?

Ratu Inoke Takiveikata is a prominent Fijian leader who is the high chief of Naitasiri Province. On 7 March 2011 the Fijian High Court handed him a life sentence for having incited a rebellion in year 2000 which aimed to kill the current Fijian military leader, Commodore Frank Bainimarama. Under the terms of his life sentence, he is due for release in March 2019. He is also serving a seven-year sentence for plotting to kill Bainimarama in 2007.¹

Country Advice FJI38685 dated 16 May 2011 refers to sources that provide information on Commodore Bainimarama's attitude towards those involved in the rebellion of 2000:²

Bainimarama and the military/police have demonstrated less tolerance of those involved in the November 2000 mutiny. An indication of Bainimarama's continued willingness to pursue and punish those he believes were behind the recruitment of the CRW mutineers [CRW:Counter Revolutionary Warfare Unit] is found in a March 2011 news report³ of a successful prosecution of a high profile customary chief, Ratu Inoke Takiveikata. Ratu Inoke Takiveikata had previously been found guilty of inciting members of the military to mutiny but was released in 2007 upon a successful appeal against the verdict. Ratu Inoke Takiveikata was retried and found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment with a non-parole period of eight years.

The abovementioned sentencing of Ratu Inoke Takiveikata can be seen as a continuation of Bainimarama's intolerance of military's involvement in the Speight-led coup and November 2000 mutiny. From 2001 until April 2005, 159 military personnel were convicted of mutiny by military tribunals for their involvement in the 2000 coup and its aftermath. Most of the convicted military personnel were sentenced to lengthy prison sentences and were not allowed to re-join the military forces.⁴

2. Deleted.

¹ 'Fiji chief gets life for Bainimarama plot' 2011, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, source: AAP, 7 March <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/fiji-chief-gets-life-for-bainimarama-plot-20110307-1bkd4.html> - Accessed 12 May 2011.

² RRT Country Advice 2011, *Country Advice FJI38685*, 16 May.

³ 'Fiji chief gets life for Bainimarama plot' 2011, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, source: AAP, 7 March <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/fiji-chief-gets-life-for-bainimarama-plot-20110307-1bkd4.html> - Accessed 12 May 2011.

⁴ Bhim, M. 2007, 'The impact of the Reconciliation, Tolerance and Unity Bill on the 2006 election', in *From election to coup in Fiji. The 2006 campaign and its aftermath*, eds J.Fraenkel & S. Firth, ANU E Press website, 28 May, p111 & 126-7 <http://epress.anu.edu.au/fiji/pdf/ch10.pdf> - Accessed 12 May 2011.

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