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FIJI UPDATE

14 May 2009 -12.30 p.m.

Several news outlets have this morning reported that the Reverend Manasa Lasaro, former President of the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma, has been detained by the Police in Fiji for questioning.

UnitingWorld has been in contact with the Methodist Church this morning regarding the developing situation.

The Church is in dialogue with the Police and the military and has been assured of Rev. Lasaro's safety.

Several news stories covering this issue have referred to a statement, reportedly released by the Methodist Church, opposing the country's military regime. This statement was not released by the Church or by the Methodist Consultative Council in the Pacific (MCCP), of which the Uniting Church is a member, and does not accurately represent the official position of the Methodist Church or the MCCP.

UnitingWorld will continue to maintain close contact with the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma.

We ask you to continue upholding the leadership of the Methodist Church in your prayers.

Kerry Enright
National Director
UnitingWorld

