



THE FIJI TIMES

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Regime takes Fiji Times boss

By SOPHIE FOSTER and FREDERICA ELBOURNE

LATE last night, the High Court ordered immigration and police officials to produce *Fiji Times* publisher Evan Hannah in Suva court at 3pm today to justify why he had been detained.

The order by Justice Filimoni Jitoko came after three immigration officers and one policeman arrived at Mr Hannah's home at about 6.55pm with an order to deport the publisher on the grounds that he had breached his work permit.

"The High Court order requires the immigration officers and the police as well as the permanent secretary for defence, national security and immigration and the Commissioner of Police to produce Mr Hannah to the court at 3pm (this afternoon) to justify the detention," said Munro Leys lawyer Jon Apted, who acted for *The Fiji Times*.

Late last night, attempts were being made to serve the order and the writ of habeas corpus on police and immigration officials. The first flight out to Australia is FJ911 to Sydney at 9am today.

Mr Hannah was taken from his home at about 7.30pm – in front of his year-old son Benjamin and his wife, Dr Katarina Tuinamuana, who is a Fiji citizen.

Dr Tuinamuana said the line of action taken by the government officials was unnecessary.

"To come into our home without any warning and to demand my husband's instant removal is inhumane and completely unjustified," she said. She said at first the offi-

cers told her they just wanted to talk to him but they later revealed they had an order to deport him.

"I took them into the sitting room to wait there. While we were waiting for Evan, I asked them again what they wanted, and they said that they had an order for his deportation on the grounds that he had breached the conditions of his work permit. We asked for further information about what it was that Evan had done to breach his work permit conditions. They said that they were not at liberty to say. They then said that they needed to take Evan out to transport him to Nadi airport so that he could be deported. We asked them to wait for our lawyers to arrive," Dr Tuinamuana said.

She said the officers were "civil, saying that they were 'only doing their job'".

But Dr Tuinamuana said it was clear to her that force would have been used if necessary.

She said the officials were adamant "that the order for deportation was clear, and that the legal matters could be cleared up later".

"I asked them to consider the fact that they just turned up out of the blue and expected me to accept that they were going to remove my husband from our home, and from the country," she said.

"They again said that they were only following orders. It was clear to me that they would use force if we did not comply."

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Forced out . . . *The Fiji Times*' publisher, Evan Hannah, is escorted out of his Tamavua home in Suva by officers last night.

Picture: ELIKI NUKUTABU

Road blocked in car chase

By AKANISI TAUMOEPEAU

IT all began at about 6.55pm.

A uniformed police officer and three immigration officials arrived at the home of *Fiji Times* Limited publisher Evan Hannah at Tamavua with orders for his deportation.

Their vehicles – GN214 and EP401 – were parked outside the gate. Parked closer to Princes Road in the dark was another vehicle – a red twin-cab, GN508.

While lurking in the shadows was a civilian-dressed man, with military bearing.

He later sat in the front seat of GN214, the vehicle that took Mr Hannah away from his home.

Mr Hannah was escorted out of the house into the waiting vehicle at about 7.30pm.

He told *The Fiji Times* reporters that he was being deported to Nadi.

Shortly after leaving the house, GN214, carrying Mr Hannah and three passengers, stopped for a minute outside the Kundan Singh Supermarket before going down Princes Road.

GN214 turned down Edinburgh Road and at the Walu Bay junction, indicated to turn toward Lami but continued toward the CBD.

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