

21 May 2011 **The Government of Tonga has not received any formal application from the Fijian Government for the extradition of Lieutenant Colonel Ratu Tevita Uluilakeba Mara, also known as Roko Ului.**

Tongan authorities confirm that so far, only a "diplomatic note" has been received from Fiji.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga did receive a Note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of the Government of the Republic of Fiji, which makes some unsubstantiated assertions and attached a personal statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama," said Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mahe'uli'uli Tupouniua.

"The Statement contains a reference to an intention to apply for extradition but the Note itself contains no reference to or application for extradition at all."

Yesterday the Fiji Sun newspaper carried a story entitled "Fiji comes first", reporting that Commodore Bainimarama announced that the case of Ratu Tevita Uluilakeba Mara is unimportant and now accorded a lower national priority.

The Fiji Sun also reported that the Government of Fiji sent an extradition application on Tuesday, 17th May 2011.

However, at the close of business day on Friday, 20th May 2011, the Tongan Government has not received any extradition application.

ENDS

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