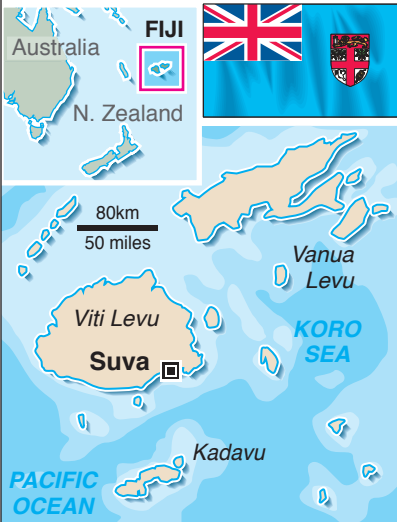
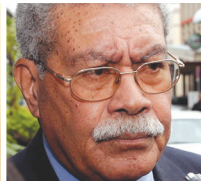


Fiji's PM placed under house arrest

Fiji's military commander has announced he has taken control of the country from the elected government. Commodore Frank Bainimarama has assumed the powers of the president, and is using them to dismiss Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase from office and appoint an interim replacement



Frank Bainimarama



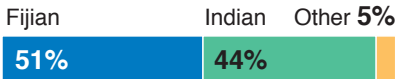
Laisenia Qarase

► **Demands:** Abandon three contentious bills and formally remove Fiji's police chief, Australian Andrew Hughes, from his post

► **Compromise:** Qarase has offered to suspend bill to grant pardons to conspirators in 2000 coup, and two other bills which Bainimarama says unfairly favour indigenous Fijians in land rights over ethnic Indian minority

► **Fallout:** Australia, Britain and New Zealand have warned of dire social and economic consequences to the tourism-dependent country if the military completes its coup

Breakdown by ethnic group



Sources: Wire agencies

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