



PRESS RELEASE (No. 4 of 2016)

DPP WITHDRAWS MURDER CHARGES

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, filed a *nolle prosequi* (discontinuance) in the High Court in Lautoka today (9.5.16) effectively ending the prosecution against four men accused of the murder of Jagdish Chand in 2010.

Jitendra Kumar, Subhash Chand, Parma Nand and Deo Chand were each charged with one count of murder for the death of Jagdish Chand in 2010.

Mr Pryde said, "It was clear that each of the accused had received unexplained injuries at the time of their caution interview whilst in police custody. It also appears that duress was placed on the interviewing officers by their superiors to deny all allegations of assault. This is a very serious allegation which needs to be fully investigated. There being no admissible evidence against the accused other than the confession statements I am of the view that in these circumstances it would not be proper to continue with the prosecution. I am therefore ending the prosecution and sending the file back to the Police Commissioner to investigate the allegations of assault in custody."

Mr Pryde further said that, "The filing of a *nolle prosequi* does not amount to an acquittal of the four persons. If further evidence is received from the Police it will be considered and the charge against each person may be filed afresh. Until

that time, the matter is at an end.”

---END---

9 May 2016

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is an independent office established under section 117 of the 2013 Fijian Constitution. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is motivated by the principle that it is in the interests of justice that the guilty be brought to justice and the innocent are not wrongly convicted.