



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – May 2018

The following data is authorised for release by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and relates to the number of formal indictments (*Information*) filed in the High Courts of Fiji by the Director of Public Prosecutions throughout the month. This data is confined to incidents of serious crimes other than sexual violence offences which are recorded and published separately. This data also includes offences committed by police officers.

There were 90 people charged with a total of 112 counts of separate incidents in May. The offences were murder (2), manslaughter (1), aggravated burglary (16), aggravated robbery (20), theft (17), forgery (3), uttering forged documents (3), obtaining money (4), falsification of accounts (14), larceny(10), money laundering (1), attempt to obtain property by deception (1), unlawful wounding (1), act with intent to cause grievous harm (4), assault causing actual bodily harm (1), serious assault (1), dangerous driving causing grievous harm (1), dangerous driving (2), careless driving (1), arson (1), receiving stolen property (1) and false statement at airport (7).

Of the 90 people charged, four were police officers. One police officer was charged with serious assault, another police officer was charged with careless driving while two others were charged with dangerous driving.

There were 14 juveniles charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences.

There were 7 foreign nationals from Cyprus, the Philippines, the United States, Australia, Thailand and Vanuatu charged with various offences including money laundering and false statements at the airport.

There were 58 victims of the 112 counts of separate incidents. Of the 58 victims, there were 6 incidents where the accused and victims were related to one another and 7 incidents where the victims were foreign nationals from New Zealand, China, Japan and Bangladesh. The foreign nationals and their homes were allegedly robbed and cash and assorted items were stolen.

There were two incidents of murder. In one case, a 22-year-old man was charged for the alleged murder of his 22-year-old divorced wife and in another case a 34-year-old man was charged for forcing his 21-year-old de facto partner to drink weedkiller which caused her death.

There were two incidents of act with intent to cause grievous harm where the husbands have allegedly assaulted their wives with hammers and hot irons causing grievous harm.

A 39-year-old man was charged with unlawful wounding of his 19-year-old daughter while a 37-year-old man was charged with arson for allegedly setting his sister-in-law's house on fire.

There was one incident of manslaughter where a 23-year-old man fell asleep at the wheel of his car which caused the death of a Bangladeshi tourist. The accused is also charged with one count of dangerous driving causing grievous harm.

Cash amounts ranged from \$30 to \$62, 944 while assorted items from \$159 worth of mobile phones to household goods, electronic and mechanical items amounting to over \$13, 900 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary offences which consisted of home invasions, office and shop break-ins, western union break-ins, vehicle break-ins, and daylight street robberies.

There were 7 individuals who were charged separately with one count each of giving false statements at the airport. These individuals include 2 locals and 5 foreign nationals informing security officials at Nadi International Airport that their luggage contained bombs.

There was one incident where a man was charged with multiple counts of forgery, uttering forged documents, obtaining money, falsification of accounts and larceny. This case was withdrawn after a discontinuance (*Nolle Prosequi*) was filed due to loss of police exhibits.

Six other cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed. One case of a police officer charged with dangerous driving was withdrawn after his death while five cases were withdrawn due to insufficient evidence.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics May 2018* for a break-down of these statistics.

**ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) May 2018**

	Total No. of Counts	Total No. of accused persons	Total No. of victims	No. of Nolle Prosequi filed	Incidents involving domestic relations	No. of Police officers charged
Murder	2	2	2	0	2	0
Manslaughter	1	1	2	0	0	0
Aggravated burglary	16	32	18	3	0	0
Aggravated robbery	20	33	22	3	0	0
Theft	17	31	16	2	0	0
Forgery	3	1	1	1	0	0
Uttering forged documents	3	1	1	1	0	0
Obtaining money	4	1	1	1	0	0
Falsification of accounts	14	1	1	1	0	0
Larceny	10	1	1	1	0	0
Money laundering	1	2	1	0	0	0
Attempt to obtain property by deception	1	2	1	0	0	0
Unlawful wounding	1	1	1	0	1	0
Act with intent to cause grievous harm	4	4	4	0	2	0
Assault causing actual bodily harm	1	1	4	0	0	0
Serious assault	1	1	1	0	0	1
Dangerous driving causing grievous harm	1	1	2	0	0	0

Dangerous driving	2	2	0	1	0	2
Careless driving	1	1	1	0	0	1
Arson	1	1	1	0	1	0
Receiving stolen property	1	2	1	0	0	0
False statement at Airport	7	7	0	0	0	0
Total	112	90*	58*	7*	6	4
	Source: ODPP Fiji					

* Please note that a number of accused persons may also have been charged with other serious offences. Similarly, a number of victims for one crime have also been victims of other serious crimes. Same applies to number of *Nolle Prosequi* field.

* Please also note that sexual violence offences are recorded and published separately.

4 June 2018.

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