



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – August 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 106 people charged with a total of 144 counts of separate incidents in August. The offences were murder (2), attempted murder (2), aggravated robbery (20), attempted aggravated robbery (1), aggravated burglary (24), attempted aggravated burglary (1), theft (40), arson (3), assault (4), assault causing actual bodily harm (11), act with intent to cause grievous harm (11), grievous harm (1), common assault (1), unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (1), importation of illicit drugs (1), possession of illicit drugs (1), failure to declare arms and ammunition (1), careless driving (2), damaging property (1), criminal intimidation (6), indecently annoying (1), wrongful confinement (1), breach of suspended sentence (1), breach of bail (2), breach of DVRO (1) and resisting arrest (4).

There were nine juveniles who were charged with aggravated burglary and theft offences.

Of the 106 people charged, six were police officers. Three police officers were charged with aggravated robbery whereby they allegedly robbed a person of \$1,530 worth of goods and also assaulted the victim. One police officer was charged with the theft of a mobile phone, another police officer was charged for assaulting his wife causing her actual bodily harm while another police officer was charged with careless driving.

There were 81 victims of the 144 counts of separate incidents. Of the 81 victims, there were 9 incidents where the accused and victims were related to one another, 3 incidents where foreign nationals were robbed and 3 incidents where police officers were assaulted during arrests.

A 38-year-old man was charged with the murder of his 35-year-old wife and in another incident a 26-year-old man was charged with the murder of a 48-year-old woman. The accused is also charged with the breach of his suspended sentence.

There were two incidents of attempted murder. A 53-year-old man was charged with the attempted murder of his 43-year-old wife and in another incident, a 33-year-old man was

charged with the attempted murder of his 22-year-old girlfriend. The accused is also charged with one count of assault causing actual bodily harm.

Three men were charged with multiple counts of aggravated burglary and theft whereby \$48,000 worth of goods was stolen from five Chinese nationals. In another incident an American national was robbed by three men whereby they stole two bicycles worth \$750 and a New Zealand national was robbed of her mobile phone worth \$2,800.

Two fathers were charged in separate incidents for assaulting their daughters. In one incident, a 52-year-old was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous harm after he allegedly assaulted his 29-year-old daughter and in another incident a 25-year-old man was charged with multiple counts of assault causing actual bodily harm after he assaulted his three daughters aged 3, 4, and 7 years.

A 24-year-old woman was charged for causing grievous harm after she allegedly poured boiling tea on her 28-year-old husband.

A 33-year-old school teacher was charged for assaulting an 8-year-old pupil.

Cash and assorted items ranged from \$20 to \$179,500 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary offences which consisted of home invasions, shop break-ins, foreign exchange break-ins, college canteen break-ins, poultry farm break-ins and daylight street robberies. Assorted items stolen during these offences include mobile phones, electronic items, household goods, gold jewellery and food items.

In one incident, two men allegedly assaulted two police officers during arrest. They were charged with aggravated robbery and resisting arrest.

There was one incident where a 20-year-old man was charged with multiple counts of act with intent to cause grievous harm. He was also charged with damaging property and resisting arrest after he attacked police officers at a police post.

There was one incident where 7 accused persons were charged with multiple counts of theft of fuel cards of the Fiji Police Force and assorted items worth \$2,700.

A 35-year-old man was charged with the unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. He is alleged to have cultivated 8 kilograms of cannabis.

An Australian couple were charged with importation of illicit drugs, possession of illicit drugs and failure to declare arms and ammunition after drugs and arms and ammunition were found on their yacht.

There were three separate incidents of arson. In one incident, four men aged 18, 19, 22 and 24 years allegedly burned a 66-year-old person's house worth \$37,000 and properties worth \$15,000 were destroyed.

In another incident, a 39-year-old man allegedly set fire to his 31-year-old de facto partner's house and in another incident, a 37-year-old was charged for allegedly burning down a 22-year old person's house.

Seven cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed. Two cases were withdrawn due to the accused person being mentally unfit to stand trial, one case was withdrawn after the death of the accused person, and another case was withdrawn after the complainant left the country while three other cases were withdrawn due to insufficient evidence.

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

**ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) August 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	1	0
Attempted Murder	2	2	2	0	1	0
Aggravated robbery	20	28	22	3	0	3
Attempted aggravated robbery	1	1	1	0	0	0
Aggravated burglary	24	34	17	0	0	0
Attempted aggravated burglary	1	1	1	0	0	0
Theft	40	33	19	0	0	1
Arson	3	6	3	0	1	0
Assault	4	4	5	0	1	0
Assault causing actual bodily harm	11	6	10	1	3	1
Act with intent to cause grievous harm	11	5	10	0	2	0
Grievous harm	1	1	1	0	1	0
Common Assault	1	1	1	0	1	0
Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs	1	1	0	0	0	0
Importation of illicit drugs	1	1	0	0	0	0
Possession of illicit drugs	1	2	0	0	0	0

Failure to declare arms and ammunitions	1	2	0	0	0	0
Careless driving	2	2	2	1	0	1
Damaging property	1	1	1	0	0	0
Criminal intimidation	6	6	6	2	3	0
Indecently annoying	1	1	1	0	0	0
Wrongful confinement	1	1	1	0	0	0
Breach of suspended sentence	1	1	0	0	0	0
Breach of Bail	2	2	0	0	0	0
Breach of DVRO	1	1	0	0	0	0
Resisting Arrest	4	4	0	0	0	0
Total	144	106*	81*	7*	9*	6
	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. The same applies to the number of *Nolle Prosequi* filed.

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

4 September 2018.

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