



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics – October 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 sexual offences only.

There were 19 people charged with a total of 34 counts of separate incidents in October. The offences were rape (23), indecent assault (1), defilement (6) and sexual assault (4).

There were 18 victims of the 34 counts of separate incidents of whom 12 victims were under the age of 18 years. There were 17 female victims and 1 male victim.

Of the 19 people charged, three were juvenile. One 16-year-old boy was charged with the rape of his 8-year-old niece, another 16-year-old boy was charged with the rape of an 11-year-old boy while another 16-year-old boy was charged with defilement of a 15-year-old girl.

There were 6 incidents where the victims and the accused persons were related to one another.

There were 3 separate incidents where stepfathers were charged with the rape of their stepdaughters. In one incident a 30-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 8-year-old step daughter while in another incident a 39-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 12-year-old stepdaughter. He was also charged with gross indecency. ***(NB: The offence of gross indecency is recorded separately).***

In another incident, a 45-year-old man was charged with multiple counts of rape of his 13-year-old stepdaughter. However, this matter was withdrawn after a discontinuance (*Nolle Prosequi*) was filed due to the complainant admitting to making false allegations.

There were two separate incidents where a 19-year-old and a 27-year-old man were charged with the rape of their 7-year-old and 18-year-old cousins respectively.

There was one incident where a 19-year-old man was charged with the rape and indecent assault of a 17-year-old girl. The accused and the victim were neighbours.

In a separate incident one 18-year-old and a 19-year-old man were charged with the rape of a 21-year-old woman.

There was one incident where a 29-year-old man was charged for allegedly raping a 30-year-old woman at a drinking party.

There was one incident where a 30-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 5-year-old girl.

A 21-year-old and an 18-year-old man were charged with defilement of a 14-year-old girl and a 15-year-old girl respectively.

Three cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (Nolle Prosequi) were filed. Two cases were withdrawn due to false complaints and one case was withdrawn due to a lack of credible evidence.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences October 2018* for a break-down of these statistics.



ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics October 2018

	Rape	Indecent Assault	Defilement	Sexual Assault	Total
No. of Counts	23	1	6	4	34
Total No. of Victims	15	1	3	3	18*
No. of Victims under 18 years	9	1	3	2	12*
Total No. of Accused Persons	16	1	3	3	19*
No. of Accused Persons under 18 years	2	0	1	0	3
No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed	3	0	0	0	3
No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives	6	0	0	0	6
No. of False Complaints	2	0	0	0	2

Source: ODPP Fiji

*** Please note that a number of rape victims as well as victims under the age of 18 years and victims in domestic relationship were also victims of other serious sexual offences. Similarly, a number of accused persons were also charged with more than one offence.**

1 November 2018.

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