



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – February 2019

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 61 people charged with a total of 152 counts of separate incidents in February. The offences were murder (2) aggravated robbery (17), attempted aggravated robbery (1), aggravated burglary (14), theft (14), money laundering (90), arson (1), act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (3), assault causing actual bodily harm (3), assault (1), unlawful wounding (1), unlawful cultivation (2), criminal intimidation (1), abuse of office (1), damaging property (1) and breach of DVRO (1).

Of the 61 accused persons, 5 were juveniles and 4 were police officers. The juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences. Two police officers were charged with the murder of a 21-year-old man at Totogo Police Station while two other police officers were charged with act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and abuse of office.

There were 44 victims of the 152 counts of separate incidents. There were six incidents where the accused and victims were related to one another.

A 21-year-old man was charged with the murder of a 53-year-old man. The accused was also charged with aggravated robbery and the attempted rape of the deceased's daughter. (**NB: The offence of attempted rape was recorded separately.**)

There were two separate incidents of acts with intent to cause grievous bodily harm where the accused and victim were related to one another. In one incident, a 45-year-old man allegedly threw a knife and also hit his 40-year-old wife with the knife causing her grievous bodily harm while in another incident, a 44-year-old man used a cane knife and a stick to attack his 29-year-old nephew causing him grievous bodily harm.

A 43-year-old woman was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm after she allegedly assaulted her 52-year-old husband with a piece of timber. In another incident, a 34-year-old man was charged for allegedly assaulting his 33-year-old de facto partner and causing her actual bodily harm. The accused was also charged with one count of damaging property.

There was another incident where a 29-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his 27-year-old de facto partner and breach of DVRO, however, this matter was withdrawn due to the inability to locate the complainant.

There was one incident where a 28-year-old man was charged with unlawful wounding after he allegedly wounded his 30-year-old wife by throwing a glass bottle at her.

Two 27-year-olds and a 31-year-old were charged with 90 counts of money laundering. The three are former employees of Shop and Save supermarket and are alleged to have laundered approximately \$200,000 through falsification of employee accounts.

There was one incident where a 20-year-old man was charged with arson after he allegedly set his rented flat on fire causing \$15,000 worth of damage.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$36 to \$17,000 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary offences which consisted of home invasions, shop and supermarket break-ins and daylight street robberies.

There were five incidents where foreign nationals were allegedly robbed. In one incident, a 39-year-old Australian female was allegedly robbed by two men whilst walking to a coffee shop in the morning. The 2 accused persons aged 31 and 32-years allegedly stole a taxi after which they used it to rob 3 different complainants including the Australian woman.

A 23-year-old man was charged for allegedly robbing a Filipino man of \$600 cash and other assorted items while a 27-year-old man was charged with aggravated robbery after he allegedly robbed a 73-year-old Chinese man of \$6,000 worth of assorted items.

A 17-year-old boy was charged with aggravated robbery after he allegedly robbed a 57-year-old Solomon Islander of 2 mobile phones while a 21-year-old man was charged for allegedly robbing an 18-year-old Chinese female during street mugging incidents.

There was one incident where a 32-year-old man was charged with unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs and criminal intimidation. The accused allegedly cultivated 1079 plants of *cannabis sativa* weighing 43.5 kilograms and threatened a police officer with a cane knife.

Five cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed. Three cases were withdrawn due to insufficient evidence while two cases were withdrawn due to the inability to locate the complainants.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics February 2019* for a break-down of these statistics.

		ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) February 2019				
	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	3	2	0	0	2
Aggravated robbery	17	21	20	2	0	0
Attempted aggravated robbery	1	2	1	0	0	0
Aggravated burglary	14	25	14	2	0	0
Theft	14	25	14	2	0	0
Money laundering	90	3	0	0	0	0
Arson	1	1	1	0	0	0
Act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm	3	5	3	0	2	2
Assault causing actual bodily harm	3	3	3	1	3	0
Assault	1	1	2	0	0	0
Unlawful wounding	1	1	1	0	1	0
Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs	1	1	0	0	0	0
Criminal intimidation	1	1	1	0	0	0
Abuse of office	1	2	1	0	0	2
Damaging property	1	1	1	0	1	0
Breach of DVRO	1	1	1	1	1	0
Total	152	61*	44*	4*	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.**

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

4 March 2019.

-End-