



## ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

### ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – March 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 41 people charged with a total of 57 counts of separate incidents in March. The offences were murder (2), manslaughter through breach of duty (1), aggravated robbery (7), attempted aggravated robbery (1), robbery (1), aggravated burglary (9), theft (9), assault causing actual bodily harm (4), acts with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (4), serious assault (1), assault (1), arson (1), disabling in order to commit an offence (1), abducting with intent to confine (1), unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (2), unlawful possession of illicit drugs (1), damaging property (2), criminal intimidation (2), criminal trespass (1), indecently annoying (2), resisting arrest (1), breach of DVRO (1) and breach of suspended sentence (2).

Of the 41 accused persons, 3 were juveniles and 1 was a police officer. The juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences while the police officer was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his wife who is also a police officer.

There were 33 victims of the 57 counts of separate incidents. There were 8 incidents where the accused and victims were related to one another.

A 19-year-old was charged with the murder of a 58-year-old man. The accused allegedly suffocated the victim. He is also charged with aggravated robbery and theft.

In another incident, a 41-year-old man was charged with the murder of his 38-year-old sister-in-law. This matter was withdrawn after the death of two principal witnesses.

A 27-year-old woman and a 48-year-old man were charged with manslaughter through breach of duty for allegedly causing the death of a 1 year and 3 months old girl. The victim who was the granddaughter of the 48-year-old ran behind the truck that was reversing in the compound when she was allegedly hit, however, this matter was withdrawn.

A 29-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm for allegedly assaulting his 36-year old de facto partner.

A 57-year-old man was charged with disabling in order to commit an offence. The accused allegedly pushed his 42-year-old wife's head under water in order to assault her.

In a separate incident, a 43-year-old man was charged with arson for allegedly setting his wife's home on fire and causing damage of \$50,000. The accused was also charged with assault and breach of DVRO.

A 28-year-old man was charged with criminal intimidation and indecently annoying his 34-year-old wife. He was also charged with rape and sexual assault. **(NB: The offences of rape and sexual assault were recorded separately).**

A 59-year-old man was charged with indecently annoying his 23-year-old daughter-in-law and breach of suspended sentence. The accused was also charged with rape and sexual assault. **(NB: The offences of rape and sexual assault were recorded separately).**

A 35-year-old man was charged with serious assault for allegedly assaulting two police officers. The accused allegedly assaulted the police officers whilst they were attempting to arrest the accused for burglary.

There were two separate incidents of acts with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. In one incident, a 21-year-old man armed with a cane knife attacked 3 victims whilst they were asleep. He was also charged with criminal trespass and damaging property. In another incident, a 55-year-old man used a cane knife and severed the victim's index finger.

There were two separate incidents where 3 men were charged with the unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. In one incident, a 36-year-old man was charged for allegedly cultivating 1,589 plants of *cannabis sativa* weighing 198 kilograms while in another incident, a 30-year-old and a 37-year-old man were charged for allegedly cultivating 4,621 seedlings of *cannabis sativa* weighing 6.8 kilograms.

A 24-year-old Canadian man was charged with unlawful possession of illicit drugs. The accused was allegedly found with 39.5 kilograms of cocaine at his home.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$338 to \$12,000 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary offences which consisted of home invasions, shops and restaurant break-in.

There were three incidents where foreign nationals were allegedly robbed. In one incident, a 48-year-old American woman was allegedly robbed of an iPad and 2 mobile phones by a 24-year-old man. In another incident, two 19-year-olds and one 23-year-old man allegedly broke into a 46-year-old Chinese man's restaurant and allegedly stole assorted items and a 36-year-old man was charged for allegedly robbing a 34-year-old Filipino man.

However, all three matters were withdrawn due to lack of sufficient identification evidence, police witnesses failing to attend court and losing contact with the complainant after he returned to his country.

Ten cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed. These cases were withdrawn due to lack of sufficient identification evidence, police witnesses failing to attend court, death of principal witnesses and insufficient evidence.

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

**ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) March 2019**

	<b>Total No. of Counts</b>	<b>Total No. of accused persons</b>	<b>Total No. of victims</b>	<b>No. of Nolle Prosequi filed</b>	<b>Incidents involving domestic relations</b>	<b>No. of Police officers charged</b>
<b>Murder</b>	2	2	2	1	1	0
<b>Manslaughter through breach of duty</b>	1	2	1	1	1	0
<b>Aggravated robbery</b>	7	8	7	3	0	0
<b>Attempted aggravated robbery</b>	1	1	2	1	0	0
<b>Robbery</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Aggravated burglary</b>	9	13	5	3	0	0
<b>Theft</b>	9	13	5	3	0	0
<b>Assault causing actual bodily harm</b>	4	4	4	1	2	1
<b>Act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm</b>	4	2	4	0	0	0
<b>Serious Assault</b>	1	1	2	0	0	0
<b>Assault</b>	1	1	3	0	1	0
<b>Arson</b>	1	1	3	0	1	0
<b>Disabling in order to commit an offence</b>	1	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Abducting with intent to confine</b>	1	3	1	0	0	0
<b>Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs</b>	2	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Unlawful possession of illicit drugs</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Damaging property</b>	2	2	4	0	0	0

<b>Criminal intimidation</b>	2	2	2	0	1	0
<b>Criminal trespass</b>	1	1	3	0	0	0
<b>Indecently annoying</b>	2	2	2	0	2	0
<b>Resisting arrest</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Breach of DVRO</b>	1	1	3	0	1	0
<b>Breach of suspended sentence</b>	2	2	2	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10*</b>	<b>8*</b>	<b>1</b>
	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.

2 April 2019.

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