



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – May 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 89 people charged with a total of 86 counts of separate incidents in May. The offences were murder (2), manslaughter (2), aggravated robbery (18), robbery (1), aggravated burglary (15), burglary (1), theft (19), assault causing actual bodily harm (8), acts with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (4), arson (2), unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (5), unlawful possession of illicit drugs (4), attempted export of illicit drugs (1), dangerous driving occasioning grievous bodily harm (2), dangerous driving (1) and careless driving (1).

Of the 89 accused persons, 6 were juveniles and 2 were police officers. Five juveniles were charged with aggravated burglary and theft while one juvenile was charged with unlawful cultivation of 17.5 kilograms of *cannabis sativa*. A 50-year-old police officer was charged with dangerous driving while a 28-year-old police officer was charged with careless driving.

There were 50 victims of the 89 counts of separate incidents. There were 7 incidents where the accused and the victims were related to one another.

A 21-year-old woman was charged with the murder of her newborn child while in another incident, a 21-year-old man was charged with the murder of his de facto partner's 2-year-old daughter.

A 28-year-old man was charged with the manslaughter of a 52-year-old man. The accused allegedly assaulted the victim after a party which led to his death. Both the accused and victim were heavily intoxicated at the time of the incident.

In another incident, a 54-year-old man was charged with manslaughter for allegedly causing an accident which resulted in the death of a 27-year-old woman. The accused was allegedly intoxicated at the time of the incident.

There was one incident where a 26-year-old woman was charged for assaulting her 60-year-old father which caused him actual bodily harm. There were two other incidents where a 29-year-old and a 51-year-old man were charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to their 21 and 35-year-old wives.

A 36-year-old man was charged with act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm to his 44-year-old de facto partner. The accused allegedly assaulted his partner with a beer bottle which caused her grievous bodily harm.

There was one incident where a 33-year-old man was charged with act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm to a 24-year-old man. The accused who is also charged with one count of aggravated robbery, is alleged to have stabbed the victim with a knife whilst trying to rob him.

There was one incident where a 40-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to a 6-year-old boy with a cane knife.

A 44-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to a 13-year-old girl, however, the matter was withdrawn after the unrelated death of the victim.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$50 to \$29,730 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary offences which consisted of home invasions, shops and supermarket break-in and daylight and night street robberies.

There were five incidents where six foreign nationals were allegedly robbed. A 21-year-old man was charged with the aggravated robbery of \$2000 cash from a 50-year-old Chinese woman's shop while a 20-year-old man was charged with aggravated robbery of \$600 cash and assorted recharge cards from a 53-year-old Chinese man's shop.

There was one incident where a 24-year-old man was charged with aggravated robbery of cash and assorted items worth \$4,150 from a New Zealand and an Australian man.

A 39-year-old and a 21-year-old man were charged with aggravated robbery of 3 Chinese nationals, however, the matter was discontinued after the complainants left the country and could not be contacted. In another incident, a 38-year-old man was charged with aggravated burglary and theft of goods worth \$376 from an Australian national at a restaurant, however, this matter was discontinued due to insufficient evidence.

There were two separate incidents of arson. In one incident, a 46-year-old man was charged for allegedly setting fire to his neighbour's house while in another incident, a 23-year-old man was charged for allegedly setting fire to a room at the Saint Giles Hospital. The accused was a patient at the Saint Giles Hospital, however, the matter was withdrawn due to the accused's mental state at the time of the incident.

An 18-year-old man was charged with unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. He was alleged to have cultivated 17.8 kilograms of *cannabis sativa* while in another incident, a 30-year-old man was charged for allegedly cultivating 17.5 kilograms of *cannabis sativa*.

There was another incident where a 29-year-old and a 36-year-old man were charged with unlawful cultivation of 13 kilograms of *cannabis sativa*, however, the matter was withdrawn after credible allegations of police brutality surfaced.

Six accused persons were charged with unlawful possession of illicit drugs. In one incident, a 38-year-old and a 48-year-old man were found in unlawful possession of 509 plant and 16,664 seedlings of *cannabis sativa* weighing 27.6 kilograms. In another incident, a 30-year-old man was charged with unlawful possession of 1,428 plants of *cannabis sativa* weighing

57.45 kilograms while a 33-year-old man was found in unlawful possession of 702 plants of *cannabis sativa* weighing 42 kilograms.

A 25-year-old and a 27-year-old man were charged with unlawful possession of illicit drugs, however, the matter was discontinued due to insufficient evidence.

There was one incident where a 40-year-old and a 28-year-old man were charged with attempted export of 2 kilograms of cocaine to Sydney.

Fifteen cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence, police brutality and complainants leaving the country and could not be contacted.

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

**ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) May 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	2	2	0	2	0
Manslaughter	2	2	2	0	0	0
Aggravated robbery	18	21	21	5	0	0
Robbery	1	1	1	1	0	0
Aggravated burglary	15	32	12	2	1	0
Burglary	1	1	1	0	0	0
Theft	19	33	13	2	1	0
Assault causing actual bodily harm	8	8	7	0	3	0
Act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm	4	4	4	2	1	0
Arson	2	2	2	1	0	0
Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs	5	6	0	2	0	0
Unlawful possession of illicit drugs	4	6	0	0	0	0
Attempted export of illicit drugs	1	2	0	0	0	0
Dangerous driving occasioning grievous bodily harm	2	1	2	1	0	0
Dangerous driving	1	1	0	0	0	1
Careless driving	1	1	0	0	0	1
Total	86	89*	50*	15*	7*	2
	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.**

5 June 2019.

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