



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics – April 2020

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 12 people charged with a total of 35 counts of separate incidents in April. The offences were rape (20), attempted rape (8), abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge (1), indecent assault (1) and sexual assault (4).

Of the 12 people charged, one was a juvenile. A 12-year-old boy was charged with the sexual assault of a 6-year-old girl from his village.

There were 15 victims of whom 11 victims were under the age of 18 years.

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

There were three separate incidents where uncles were charged with the rape of their nieces. In one incident, a 35-year-old man was charged with multiple counts of rape and attempted rape of his 8-year-old and two 9-year-old nieces.

In another incident, a 56-year-old man was charged with the rape and indecent assault of his 9-year-old niece while in another incident, a 39-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 10-year-old niece.

A 30-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 27-year-old de facto partner. The accused was also charged for assaulting his partner with a hammer. He was also charged with assault causing harm and wrongful confinement. **(NB: *The offence of assault, assault causing harm and wrongful confinement is recorded separately*).**

In another incident, a 25-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 51-year-old de facto partner.

There was one incident where a 33-year-old tour bus operator was charged with the rape, abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge, and sexual assault of a 16-year-old girl.

A 44-year-old man was charged with the rape of 25-year-old woman. The alleged incident occurred during daylight after the accused knocked the victim unconscious on the street.

A 21-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 19-year-old woman. The accused and victim were attending the same school at the time of the incident.

There was one incident where a 33-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 13-year-old and a 17-year-old girl. The accused was a family friend.

There was one incident where an 18-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 15-year-old girl, however, this matter was withdrawn after the victim admitted to making a false complaint.

A 22-year-old man was charged with the defilement of a 15-year-old girl.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences April 2020* for a break-down of these statistics.



ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics April 2020

| | Rape | Attempted Rape | Abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge | Indecent Assault | Defilement | Sexual Assault | Total |
|--|------|----------------|--|------------------|------------|----------------|-------|
| No. of Counts | 20 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 35 |
| Total No. of Victims | 13 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 15* |
| No. of Victims under 18 years | 9 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 11* |
| Total No. of Accused Persons | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 12* |
| No. of Accused Persons under 18 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5* |
| No. of False Complaints | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

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.

4 May 2020

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