



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence 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 crimes other than sexual violence offences which are recorded and published separately. This data also includes offences committed by police officers.

There were 40 people charged with a total of 45 counts of separate incidents in April. The offences were manslaughter arising from breach of duty (2), aggravated robbery (10), robbery (1), aggravated burglary (7), burglary (1), theft (9), receiving stolen properties (2), assault (1), assault causing actual bodily harm (5), wrongful confinement (1), dangerous driving causing grievous harm (1), dangerous driving (2), careless driving (1), excess breath alcohol (1) and unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (1).

Of the 40 accused persons, seven were juveniles and nine were police officers. The juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences. Of these seven juveniles, one was a 7-year-old boy who was charged with aggravated burglary and theft alongside another juvenile, however, the charge against the 7-year-old boy was withdrawn due to his age.

A 45-year-old police officer was charged with dangerous driving causing grievous harm to four victims of whom one was a 3-month-old boy. The police officer was allegedly drunk at the time of the incident.

A 38-year-old police officer was charged with dangerous driving after he fell asleep at the wheel which resulted in an accident.

In another incident, a 24-year-old police officer was charged with dangerous driving and excess breath alcohol while a 36-year-old police officer was charged with careless driving.

Three police officers were charged with assault causing actual bodily harm. In one incident, a 20-year-old and a 49-year-old police officer were charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to a 41-year-old man while in another incident, a 26-year-old police officer was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his 27-year-old wife.

A 30-year-old and a 43-year-old police officer were charged with aggravated robbery of \$500 cash from a Chinese national.

There were 32 victims of the 45 counts of separate incidents.

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

A 38-year-old mother and a 65-year-old grandfather were charged with manslaughter arising from breach of duty after they allegedly neglected their 3-year-old son and 3-year-old grandson which resulted in their deaths by drowning.

A 35-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his 9-year-old daughter. The accused allegedly beat his daughter with a hosepipe.

A 30-year-old man was charged with assault, assault causing actual bodily harm and wrongful confinement of his 27-year-old de facto partner. The accused was also charged with rape. (**NB: The offence of rape was recorded and published separately**).

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$7 to over \$5000 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences which consisted of home invasions, daylight and night street robberies.

There were four separate incidents where taxi drivers were robbed. In one incident, a 23-year-old man was charged with robbery of a mobile phone from a taxi driver while a 20-year-old was charged with aggravated robbery of \$200 cash and two mobile phones from two taxi drivers. A 16-year-old boy was charged with the aggravated robbery of \$170 cash and a mobile phone from a 41-year-old taxi driver. The accused persons were passengers in the victims' taxis.

A 31-year-old man was charged with the unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. He allegedly cultivated 38.59 kilograms of *cannabis sativa*.

Two cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence and in one case where the accused person was under the age of criminal responsibility.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics April 2020* for a break-down of these statistics.



ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) April 2020

	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
Manslaughter arising from breach of duty	2	2	2	0	2	0
Aggravated robbery	10	11	9	1	0	2
Robbery	1	1	1	0	0	0
Aggravated burglary	7	14	7	1	0	0
Burglary	1	2	3	0	0	0
Theft	9	16	10	1	0	0
Receiving stolen properties	2	2	3	0	0	0
Assault	1	1	1	0	1	0
Assault causing actual bodily harm	5	5	4	0	1	3
Wrongful confinement	1	1	1	0	1	0
Dangerous driving causing grievous harm	1	1	4	0	0	1
Dangerous driving	2	2	0	0	0	2
Careless driving	1	1	2	0	0	1
Excess breath alcohol	1	1	0	0	0	1
Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	45	40*	32*	2*	3*	9*

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 May 2020.

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