



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – May 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 36 people charged with a total of 42 counts of separate incidents in May. The offences were murder (2), manslaughter arising from breach of duty (1), aggravated robbery (7), robbery (1), aggravated burglary (11), burglary (1), theft (11), receiving stolen property (1), receiving a bribe (1), falsifying a document (1), assault causing actual bodily harm (2), act with intent to cause grievous harm (1), unlawful wounding (1) and unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (1).

Of the 36 accused persons, one was a juvenile and two were police officers. A 14-year-old boy was charged with one count of aggravated robbery. The juvenile allegedly robbed a 20-year-old man of his mobile phone and cash worth \$399.

A 34-year-old police officer was charged with one count of assault causing actual bodily harm to his 33-year-old wife while a 50-year-old police officer was charged with receiving a bribe of \$50 and falsifying a traffic accident report.

There were 27 victims of the 42 counts of separate incidents.

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

A 69-year-old man was charged with the murder of an 82-year-old man. The accused allegedly hit the victim causing him to fall back and hit his head on the pavement which resulted in his death.

In another incident, a 21-year-old man was charged with the murder of a 40-year-old man. The accused allegedly attacked the victim with a cane knife because he thought the victim had stolen his mobile phone.

A 36-year-old man and a 32-year-old woman were charged with manslaughter arising from breach of duty after they left their 5-year-old son unsupervised which resulted in his death after sustaining burns from falling into hot springs.

A 24-year-old woman was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous harm after she poured boiling water over her 30-year-old de facto partner.

A 34-year-old man was charged with one count of assault causing actual bodily harm to his 32-year-old wife.

There was one incident where a 48-year-old man was charged with one count of unlawful wounding after he allegedly attacked his 26-year-old son with a cane knife.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$20 to over \$19,500 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences which consisted of home invasions, shop and service station burglaries, daylight and night street robberies as well as vehicle robberies.

A 41-year-old man was charged with the unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. He allegedly cultivated 10.3 kilograms of *cannabis sativa*.

Four cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence.

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

**ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) May 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
Murder	2	2	2	0	0	0
Manslaughter arising from breach of duty	1	2	1	0	1	0
Aggravated robbery	7	10	11	2	0	0
Robbery	1	1	1	1	0	0
Aggravated burglary	11	19	11	1	0	0
Burglary	1	2	0	0	0	0
Theft	11	17	10	1	0	0
Receiving stolen property	1	3	3	0	0	0
Receiving a bribe	1	1	1	0	0	1
Falsifying a document	1	1	0	0	0	1
Assault causing actual bodily harm	2	2	2	0	2	1
Act with intent to cause grievous harm	1	1	1	0	1	0
Unlawful wounding	1	1	1	0	1	0
Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	42	36*	27*	4*	5	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.

2 June 2020.

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