



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Rape and Sexual 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 sexual offences only.

There were 28 people charged with a total of 58 counts of separate incidents in March. The offences were rape (36), abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge (1), attempted defilement (1) and sexual assault (20).

There were 30 victims of whom 19 victims were under the age of 18 years. Of the 30 victims, 1 was male and 29 were female victims. A 23 year-old man was charged with the rape of his 10-year-old nephew.

Of the 28 people charged, a 13-year-boy was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 6-year-old girl. The accused and victim are from the same village and attend the same school.

There were 15 incidents where the victims and the accused were related to one another.

There were two separate incidents where a 27-year-old and a 47-year-old father were charged with the rape of their 4-year-old and 17-year old daughter.

A 48-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 6-year-old and 7-year-old grandnieces.

A 62-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 4-year-old grandniece. This matter was withdrawn due to witness interference.

There was a 60-year-old man who was charged with the sexual assault of his two 12-year-old granddaughters. This matter was withdrawn after the accused who was a serving prisoner died.

There were three separate incidents where a 21-year-old, a 22-year-old and a 42-year-old were charged with the rape and sexual assault of their 10, 16 and 19-year-old nieces.

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

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

A 29-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 39-year-old sister-in-law.

There were two separate incidents where a 24-year-old man and a 33-year-old man were charged with the rape and sexual assault of their 15-year-old and 40-year-old cousins.

An 18-year-old was charged with the attempted defilement of his 13-year-old cousin.

A former Fiji 7s rugby player was charged with the rape of a 24-year-old woman.

There was one incident where a 56-year-old taxi driver was charged with the sexual assault of a 24-year-old Japanese girl.

A 30-year-old former police officer was charged with the rape of a 38-year-old woman.

There was one incident where a 37-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 58-year-old woman. The accused is also charged with assault causing actual bodily harm, robbery, damaging property and criminal intimidation. ***(NB: The offences of assault causing actual bodily harm, robbery, damaging property and criminal intimidation are recorded separately).***

A 41-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 3-year-old girl, however, this matter was withdrawn due to the child victim being unable to recall the incident and insufficient other evidence.

A 67-year-old church pastor was charged with the abduction of a 16-year-old girl with intent to have carnal knowledge.

Five cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed. One case was withdrawn after the accused person passed away, another case was withdrawn due to witness interference, and another case was withdrawn due to the victim being unable to recall the incident while two other cases were withdrawn due to insufficient evidence.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences March 2019* for a break-down of these statistics.



ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics March 2019

	Rape	Abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge	Attempted Defilement	Sexual Assault	Total
No. of Counts	36	1	1	20	58
Total No. of Victims	24	1	1	17	30*
No. of Victims under 18 years	14	1	1	9	19*
Total No. of Accused Persons	23	1	1	13	28*
No. of Accused Persons under 18 years	1	0	0	1	1*
No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed	4	0	0	1	5
No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives	13	0	1	0	15*
No. of False Complaints	0	0	0	0	0

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.**

1 April 2019.

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