



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics – April 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 20 people charged with a total of 57 counts of separate incidents in April. The offences were rape (34), attempted rape (2), indecent assault (3), defilement (3) and sexual assault (15).

There were 21 victims of whom 13 victims were under the age of 18 years. Of the 21 victims, 2 were male and 19 were female victims.

Of the 20 people charged, two were juveniles and one was a police officer. A 15-year-old boy was charged with the rape of a 7-year old boy while a 17-year old boy was charged with the rape of a 5-year-old girl. The police officer was charged with the attempted rape and the rape of a 17-year-old girl.

There were 4 incidents where the victims and the accused were related to one another.

A 53-year-old man was charged with the rape, attempted rape and sexual assault of his 12-year-old granddaughter.

In a separate incident, a 43-year-old man was charged with the rape and attempted rape of his 15-year-old daughter.

There was one incident where a 48-year-old man was charged with multiple counts of rape and sexual assault of his 10-year-old niece while a 20 year-old man was charged with the rape of his 15-year old cousin.

There was one incident where a 21-year-old man was charged with the rape and murder of a 65-year-old woman. The accused is also charged with burglary and theft. The accused and victim were neighbours. **(NB: *The offences of murder, burglary and theft are recorded separately*).**

A 47-year-old pastor of the Agape Healing Ministry was charged with the rape of two members of his congregation. The accused allegedly used traditional healing treatments to induce consent from the two victims.

In another incident, a 36-year-old church youth group leader was charged with the rape of a 13-year-old boy. The victim and the accused were members of the same church.

A 42-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 28-year-old girlfriend while a 49-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 15-year-old tenant.

In another incident, a 61-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 10-year-old girl. The accused and victim were neighbours.

There was one incident where a 74-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 31-year-old woman who is diagnosed with “unspecified mental retardation.”

There was one incident where a 19-year-old man was charged with the defilement of a 15-year-old girl who fell pregnant after the incident.

One case was withdrawn after a discontinuance (*Nolle Prosequi*) was filed. A 60-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 6-year-old girl, however, the matter was discontinued due to the accused person suffering from dementia and being diagnosed as unfit to stand trial.

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



ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics April 2019

	Rape	Attempted rape	Indecent Assault	Defilement	Sexual Assault	Total
No. of Counts	34	2	3	3	15	57
Total No. of Victims	20	2	2	1	8	20*
No. of Victims under 18 years	12	2	2	1	5	13*
Total No. of Accused Persons	19	2	2	1	8	20*
No. of Accused Persons under 18 years	2	0	0	0	0	2
No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed	1	0	0	0	0	1
No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives	4	1	1	0	2	4*
No. of False Complaints	0	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 May 2019.

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