



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics – May 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 42 people charged with a total of 87 counts of separate incidents in May. The offences were rape (50), attempted rape (2), assault with intent to commit rape (1), abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge (4), indecent assault (4), defilement (5) and sexual assault (21).

There were 45 victims of whom 27 victims were under the age of 18 years. Of the 45 victims, 1 was male and 44 were female victims.

Of the 42 people charged, 3 were juveniles. A 14-year-old boy was charged with the rape of a 5-year old boy, a 15-year-old boy was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 6-year-old girl who was a visitor at the juvenile's village while a 16-year-old boy was charged with the rape of a 12-year-old girl who was his neighbour.

There were 18 incidents where the victims and the accused were related to one another.

A 62-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 15-year-old daughter while in another incident a 52-year-old man was charged with representative counts of rape and indecent assault of his 11 and 20 –year-old daughters.

A 19-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 11-year-old sister.

There was one incident where a 78-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 25-year-old granddaughter while a 37-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 83-year-old mother-in- law.

In another incident, a 35-year-old woman was charged with the rape of her 3-year-old daughter, however, this matter was discontinued after a *Nolle Prosequi* was filed due to insufficient evidence.

There were two separate incidents where a 40-year-old and a 34-year-old man were charged with the rape of their 9 and 12-year-old stepdaughters.

In another incident, a 35-year-old man was charged with the attempted rape, indecent assault and sexual assault of his 17-year-old stepdaughter. He was also charged with one count of assault causing actual bodily harm. **(NB: *The offence of assault causing actual bodily harm is recorded separately*).**

There were five incidents where uncles allegedly raped and sexually assaulted their nieces. A 60-year-old and a 26-year-old man were charged with the rape and sexual assault of their 15 and 17-year-old nieces while a 39-year-old man was charged for allegedly raping their 4 and 6-year-old nieces. In another incident a 30-year-old man was charged with the sexual assault of his 7-year-old niece while a 35-year-old Solomon Islander was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 9-year-old niece.

There were 3 separate incidents where the accused persons allegedly raped their cousins. In one incident a 35-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 26-year-old mentally challenged cousin, in another incident an 18-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 8-year-old cousin while in another incident, a 19-year-old man was charged with indecent assault and defilement of his 13-year-old cousin.

A 35-year-old man was charged with the rape and assault causing grievous bodily harm to his 32-year-old de facto partner. **(NB: *The offence of assault causing grievous bodily harm is recorded separately*.)**

A 46-year-old pastor of the Agape Healing Ministry was charged with an additional count of sexual assault of a 22-year-old woman. The accused already faces 4 other counts of rape of women from his congregation.

There was one incident where a 37-year-old man was charged with the rape and assault with intent to commit rape of a 36-year-old woman. The accused also robbed the victim in her home.

A 33-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 37-year-old woman. The accused and the victim were friends on Facebook before the alleged offence took place.

A 26-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 24-year-old co-worker while a 43-year-old man was charged with the rape, attempted rape and sexual assault of his 21-year-old co-worker.

There was one incident where a 32-year-old prison officer was charged with the rape of a 17-year-old girl who was a remanded prisoner at the time of the offence. This matter was discontinued after a *Nolle Prosequi* was filed due to the complainant admitting to making a false statement.

There was another incident where a 39-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 26-year-old woman, however, this matter was discontinued after a *Nolle Prosequi* was filed due to the complainant admitting to making a false statement after the accused failed to pay her \$25.

A 47-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 16-year-old girl however, this matter was withdrawn after three psychiatrists determined the accused was unfit to plead to the charge.

There were two incidents of abduction with the intent to have carnal knowledge. In one incident, a 40-year-old taxi driver was charged for allegedly abducting a 17-year-old girl with the intent to have carnal knowledge while in another incident a 22-year-old man was charged with abduction with the intent to have carnal knowledge of a 16-year-old girl.

Seven cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence, incomplete investigations, false complaints and accused person being unfit to plead.

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



ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics May 2019

	Rape	Attempted rape	Assault with intent to commit rape	Abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge	Indecent assault	Defilement	Sexual Assault	Total
No. of Counts	50	2	1	4	4	5	21	87
Total No. of Victims	38	2	1	2	4	2	13	45*
No. of Victims under 18 years	21	1	0	2	4	2	10	27*
Total No. of Accused Persons	34	2	1	2	3	2	13	42*
No. of Accused Persons under 18 years	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	3*
No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives	15	1	0	0	4	1	7	18*
No. of False Complaints	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

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.

3 June 2019.

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