



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics – July 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 53 counts of separate incidents in July. The offences were rape (36), attempt to commit rape (1), indecent assault (5), defilement (6) and sexual assault (5).

There were 25 victims of whom 17 victims were under the age of 18 years. There was one male victim and 24 female victims.

Of the 28 people charged, 4 were juveniles. A 14-year-old boy was charged with the rape of his 13-year-old cousin while a 17-year-old boy was charged with the defilement of his 14-year-old and 15-year-old cousins. A 15-year-old boy was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl while a 16-year-old boy was charged alongside four other accused persons in the alleged gang rape of a 21-year-old and a 38-year-old woman during a drinking party.

There were 6 incidents where the victims and the accused were related to one another.

A 71-year-old man was charged with the attempt to commit rape and rape of his 25-year-old stepdaughter, however, this matter was discontinued due to the inability to locate the complainant.

There were two other incidents where a 62-year-old and a 45-year-old man were charged with the rape and sexual assault of their 22-year-old and 15-year-old stepdaughters.

In another incident, a 24-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 11-year-old nephew.

There were two separate incidents where two 19-year-old men were charged with the defilement, rape, and indecent assault of a 15-year-old girl and a 20-year old woman. The accused persons and the victims were from the same school.

There was one incident where a 41-year-old man was charged with burglary, rape and sexual assault of a 49-year-old woman. The accused who was a family friend allegedly held a knife to the victim's neck as he raped her. **(NB: The offence of burglary is recorded separately).**

A 41-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 13-year-old girl. The accused was a family friend.

There was one incident where a 72-year-old man was charged with the indecent assault of a 4-year-old girl, however, this matter was discontinued due to the mental condition of the accused person.

A 24-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 37-year-old Australian national, however, this matter was discontinued after the complainant refused to return to Fiji to give evidence.

There was one incident where a 35-year-old security officer was charged with the rape of a 21-year-old woman and in another incident a 25-year-old bus driver was charged with the rape and indecent assault of an 11-year-old girl.

A 23-year-old man was charged with the defilement of a 16-year-old girl, however, this matter was discontinued due to insufficient evidence.

Eight cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence, inability to locate the complainants, complainant refusing to return to Fiji to give evidence and the mental condition of the accused person.

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



ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics July 2019

	Rape	Attempt to commit rape	Indecent assault	Defilement	Sexual Assault	Total
No. of Counts	36	1	5	6	5	53
Total No. of Victims	20	1	4	4	5	25*
No. of Victims under 18 years	12	0	3	4	4	17*
Total No. of Accused Persons	25	1	4	3	5	28*
No. of Accused Persons under 18 years	3	0	0	1	1	4*
No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed	6	1	1	1	0	8*
No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives	5	1	0	1	1	6*
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 August 2019.

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