



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence 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 crimes other than sexual violence offences which are recorded and published separately. This data also includes offences committed by police officers.

There were 90 people charged with a total of 94 counts of separate incidents in July. The offences were murder (6), manslaughter (1), aggravated robbery (25), attempted aggravated robbery (1), aggravated burglary (17), attempted aggravated burglary (1), burglary (1), theft (18), assault causing actual bodily harm (6), serious assault (2), kidnapping (1), dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm (1), careless driving (1), unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (2), unlawful possession of illicit drugs (2), damaging property (1), false representation to obtain a benefit (1), forgery (1), abuse of office (1), criminal intimidation (1), resisting arrest (1) and escaping from lawful custody (1).

Of the 90 accused persons, 6 were juveniles and 7 were police officers. The juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft. Four police officers were charged with assault causing actual bodily harm of whom one police officer was charged for allegedly assaulting his wife while three other officers were charged for allegedly assaulting a 25-year-old man in custody. One police officer was charged with false representation to obtain a benefit after he allegedly obtained \$3000 falsely under the Help for Homes grant. Another police officer was charged with forgery for allegedly forging a sick sheet while one police officer was charged with careless driving, however this case was withdrawn after the death of the police officer.

A 59-year-old former police officer was charged with theft after he allegedly continued to draw his \$57,925 salary after retirement whilst knowing that he was not entitled to it.

There were 54 victims of the 94 counts of separate incidents. There were 4 incidents where the accused and victims were related to one another.

There were six separate incidents of murder. In one incident, a 28-year-old man repeatedly punched his 3 month old pregnant de facto partner which resulted in the death of the victim and the unborn child. In another incident, a 21-year-old man allegedly stabbed his 18-year-old girlfriend with a dagger. A 32-year-old man was charged for allegedly killing a 28-year-old New Zealander.

A 43-year-old Chinese national was charged for allegedly strangling a 30-year-old Chinese woman after a dispute over payment for sexual services. In another incident, a 31-year-old man was charged for causing the death of a 19-year-old woman after he allegedly punched her and pushed her down a cliff into a river.

A 32-year-old Chinese national was recharged with the murder of a 44-year-old Chinese national after an order for retrial was made by the Court of Appeal. This matter however was discontinued due to a lack of evidence.

A 30-year-old man was charged with the manslaughter and dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm. It is alleged that the accused was driving whilst drunk which resulted in the death of a 29-year-old man and caused grievous bodily harm to a 23-year-old passenger.

A 27-year-old man was charged for allegedly assaulting his 33-year-old wife with a cane knife causing her actual bodily harm while a 28-year-old man was charged for allegedly punching his 27-year-old girlfriend causing her actual bodily harm and in another incident a 44-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his 41-year wife, however, this matter was discontinued after the death of the accused person.

There was one incident where a 34-year-old man was charged with the kidnapping and criminal intimidation of a 32-year-old man, his 38-year-old wife and their 5-year-old daughter. It is alleged that he kidnapped the family and demanded a ransom of \$250,000. He was also charged with aggravated robbery and theft of \$2000.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$100 to \$110,000 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and burglary and theft offences which consisted of home invasions, shop break-ins and daylight and night street robberies.

A 40-year-old and a 42-year-old man were charged with unlawful possession of 696.9 grams of methamphetamine and 5.5 kilograms of *cannabis sativa*.

A 22-year-old man was charged with unlawful cultivation of 198 plants and 1,357 seedlings of *cannabis sativa*.

Fifteen cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to evidence of police assault, insufficient evidence and death of accused persons.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics July 2019* for a break-down of these statistics.



ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) July 2019

| | 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 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Manslaughter | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aggravated robbery | 25 | 30 | 26 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Attempted aggravated robbery | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aggravated burglary | 17 | 30 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Attempted aggravated burglary | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Burglary | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Theft | 18 | 31 | 12 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Assault causing actual bodily harm | 6 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Serious assault | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kidnapping | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Careless driving | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unlawful possession of illicit drugs | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Damaging property | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| False representation to obtain a benefit | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

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|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Forgery | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Abuse of office | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Criminal intimidation | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Resisting arrest | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Escaping from lawful custody | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 94 | 90* | 54* | 15* | 4 | 7 |

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 August 2019.

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