



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – January 2020

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 55 people charged with a total of 61 counts of separate incidents in January. The offences were attempted murder (2) aggravated robbery (11), robbery (1), aggravated burglary (9) burglary (3), theft (11), serious assault (2) assault (1), assault causing actual bodily harm (3), act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (2), arson (2), making threats at an airport (2), money laundering (2), careless driving (1), breach of alcohol limit (1), driving without a licence (1), driving unregistered vehicle (1), attempting to pervert the course of justice (1), conspiracy to defeat justice (1), aiding and abetting (1), providing false information (1) unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (1) and unlawful possession of illicit drugs (1).

Of the 55 accused persons, five were juveniles and nine were police officers. The juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences.

A 34-year-old police officer was charged with careless driving, breach of alcohol limit, driving without a licence and driving an unregistered vehicle. A 45-year-old police officer was charged with theft of \$5000 which was seized as an exhibit while a 23-year-old special constable was charged with the unlawful possession of 4.8 grams of illicit drugs and providing false information.

Three police officers were charged with assault causing actual bodily harm for allegedly assaulting a 27-year-old man with a concrete block and pouring boiling tea on him. The police officers also face additional charges of act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, conspiracy to defeat justice and aiding and abetting.

Three police officers and one civilian were charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice. The accused persons allegedly tried to coerce a rape victim to withdraw her complaint.

There were 31 victims of the 61 counts of separate incidents. Of the 31, there were five incidents where the accused and victims were related to one another.

A 22-year-old man was charged with the attempted murder of his 30-year-old de facto partner. The victim was allegedly beaten, strangled and smothered with a pillow by the accused.

In another incident, a 31-year-old man was charged with the attempted murder of his 29-year-old de facto partner. The victim allegedly received repeated beatings with an iron rod and stabbing with a knife by the accused.

Two 29-year-old men were charged with arson for allegedly setting their de facto partner's homes on fire after domestic disputes in two separate incidents. One of the accused was also charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his de facto partner after he attacked her with a garden fork.

A 44-year-old man was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm to his 26-year-old de facto partner. The victim was allegedly stabbed with a knife by the accused.

In two separate incidents, a 37-year-old lawyer and a 37-year-old woman were each charged with making threats at an airport. The accused persons allegedly told security officers that they were carrying bombs.

A 67-year-old woman was charged with money laundering. The accused is alleged to have allowed her account to process \$400 that were proceeds of crime. In another incident, a 20-year-old man was charged with money laundering. The accused allegedly laundered \$43,000; however, this matter was discontinued due to insufficient evidence.

A 44-year-old man was charged with unlawful cultivation of 16.8 kilograms of *cannabis sativa*.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$50 to over \$8,575 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary and burglary offences which consisted of home invasions, shop burglaries and daylight and night street robberies.

Four cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence, evidence of police brutality, and complainants returning to their countries and could not be contacted.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics January 2020* for a break-down of these statistics.



ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) January 2020

	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
Attempted Murder	2	2	2	0	2	0
Aggravated robbery	11	17	11	2	0	0
Robbery	1	1	1	1	0	0
Aggravated burglary	9	14	8	0	0	0
Burglary	3	2	4	0	0	0
Theft	11	14	11	0	0	1
Serious Assault	2	2	2	0	0	0
Assault	1	1	1	0	0	0
Assault causing actual bodily harm	3	5	3	0	1	3
Act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm	2	2	2	0	1	1
Arson	2	2	2	0	2	0
Making threats at an airport	2	2	0	0	0	0
Money laundering	2	2	0	1	0	0
Careless driving	1	1	0	0	0	1
Breach of alcohol limit	1	1	0	0	0	1
Driving without a licence	1	1	0	0	0	1
Driving unregistered vehicle	1	1	0	0	0	1
Attempting to pervert the course of justice	1	4	0	0	0	3
Conspiracy to defeat justice	1	1	0	0	0	1

Aiding and abetting	1	2	0	0	0	2
Providing false information	1	1	0	0	0	1
Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs	1	1	0	0	0	0
Unlawful possession of illicit drugs	1	1	0	0	0	1
Total	61	55*	31*	4	5*	9*
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.

4 February 2020.

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