



## ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

### ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – February 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 54 people charged with a total of 53 counts of separate incidents in February. The offences were manslaughter (5) aggravated robbery (18), attempted aggravated robbery (1), aggravated burglary (6), theft (7), arson (4), serious assault (1), unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (6), unlawful possession of illicit drugs (2), unlawful exportation of illicit drugs (1) and dangerous driving causing grievous harm (2).

Of the 54 accused persons, four were juveniles. Three juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences while one juvenile was charged alongside a 23-year-old man with arson for allegedly setting fire to a 77-year-old man's house on suspicion of witchcraft by the victim.

There were 40 victims of the 66 counts of separate incidents. There was one incident where the accused and the victims were related to one another. A 38-year-old man was charged with arson for allegedly setting his wife's house on fire.

There were three separate incidents of vehicular manslaughter. A 58-year-old man was charged with three counts of manslaughter and two counts of dangerous driving causing grievous harm. The accused is alleged to have caused the death of three victims and grievously harmed two victims who were passengers in his car. The accused person is alleged to have been drunk driving when the accident happened.

In another incident, a 21-year-old man was charged with vehicular manslaughter. The accused allegedly drove his vehicle through a give-way which caused the death of a 58-year-old police officer. The accused was also charged with driving a vehicle as a taxi without a licence, failure to stop after an accident and unlawful possession of 2.7 grams of *cannabis sativa*. **(NB: The offences of driving a vehicle as a taxi without a licence and failure to stop after accident are not recorded in the statistics table).**

A 32-year-old man was charged with vehicular manslaughter for allegedly causing the death of a 25-year-old woman. The accused was allegedly drunk and speeding when the accident happened.

There were two more incidents of arson. In one incident, a 34-year-old man allegedly set fire to a 32-year-old man's house as an act of vengeance while in another incident, a 30-year-old man set fire to a 35-year-old man's house.

There was one incident where four men were charged with six counts of unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. The accused persons allegedly cultivated 96 cannabis plants weighing 14 kilograms.

A 51-year-old Dutch national and a 35-year-old Fijian man were charged with unlawful possession and unlawful exportation of 39.36 kilograms of cocaine to Australia.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$60 to over \$65,000 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences which consisted of home invasions, vehicle robberies and daylight and night street robberies.

There were three separate incidents where taxi drivers were allegedly robbed. In one incident, a 19-year-old man was charged with aggravated robbery. The accused allegedly robbed a taxi driver and his passenger of cash and mobile phones.

In another incident, a 40-year-old man was charged with aggravated robbery for allegedly robbing a 41-year-old taxi driver of his taxi worth \$24,000, cash and assorted taxi items while in another incident, a 40-year-old man was charged for allegedly robbing a 27-year-old taxi driver of his taxi worth \$15,000, cash and assorted items.

Seven cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence, and evidence of police brutality during the interrogation.

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



**ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) February 2020**

	<b>Total No. of Counts</b>	<b>Total No. of accused persons</b>	<b>Total No. of victims</b>	<b>No. of Nolle Prosequi filed</b>	<b>Incidents involving domestic relations</b>	<b>No. of Police officers charged</b>
<b>Manslaughter</b>	5	3	5	0	0	0
<b>Aggravated robbery</b>	18	25	22	5	0	0
<b>Attempted aggravated robbery</b>	1	2	1	0	0	0
<b>Aggravated burglary</b>	6	13	6	2	0	0
<b>Theft</b>	7	18	9	2	0	0
<b>Arson</b>	4	5	4	0	1	0
<b>Serious Assault</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs</b>	6	4	0	0	0	0
<b>Unlawful possession of illicit drugs</b>	2	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Unlawful exportation of illicit drugs</b>	1	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Dangerous driving causing grievous harm</b>	2	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>54*</b>	<b>40*</b>	<b>7*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

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.

3 March 2020.

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