



## ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

### ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics – March 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 sexual offences only.

There were 18 people charged with a total of 35 counts of separate incidents in March. The offences were rape (22), attempted rape (1), assault with intent to commit rape (1), aiding and abetting rape (1), indecent assault (3) and sexual assault (7).

Of the 18 people charged, one was a juvenile and one was a police officer. A 17-year-old boy was charged with the rape of a 12-year-old girl, however this matter was discontinued due to insufficient evidence. A 54-year-old police officer was charged with the rape, attempted rape and indecent assault of a 34-year-old woman.

There were 17 victims of whom 12 victims were under the age of 18 years.

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

A 54-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 5-year-old granddaughter.

There were four separate incidents where uncles were charged with the rape and sexual assault of their nieces. In one incident, a 19-year-old man was charged with the rape, sexual assault and indecent assault of his 5-year-old niece while a 27-year-old man was charged with representative counts of rape and sexual assault against his 14-year-old niece which was allegedly committed from 2012 to 2017.

A 26-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 14-year-old niece while a 59-year-old man was charged with the sexual assault of his 15-year-old niece.

In another incident, a 45-year-old man was charged with representative counts of rape and sexual assault against his 18-year-old stepniece.

There was one incident of marital rape where a 38-year-old man was charged with the rape and assault with intent to commit rape of his 32-year-old wife, however, this matter was discontinued due to the inability to locate the victim.

A 25-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 15-year-old girl from his village. The victim's 19-year-old uncle was also charged with aiding and abetting rape.

A 61-year-old man was charged with the indecent assault and indecently annoying his 31-year-old employee. **(NB: *The offence is indecently annoying is not recorded in the statistics table*).**

A 50-year-old man was charged with the rape and assault of a 27-year-old woman. **(NB: *The offence of assault is recorded separately*).**

A 26-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 42-year-old woman. The accused allegedly accosted the victim whilst she was walking home.

A 20-year-old man was charged with the rape of an 18-year-old girl, however, this matter was discontinued after the victim admitted that the sex was consensual.

In another incident, a 48-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 16-year-old girl, however, this matter was discontinued after the complainant admitted to making a false complaint.

Five cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence, false complaints and inability to locate the complainant.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences March 2020* for a break-down of these statistics.



### ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics March 2020

	Rape	Attempted Rape	Assault to commit rape	Aiding and abetting rape	Indecent Assault	Sexual Assault	Total
No. of Counts	22	1	1	1	3	7	35
Total No. of Victims	15	1	1	1	3	6	17*
No. of Victims under 18 years	11	0	0	1	1	6	12*
Total No. of Accused Persons	16	1	1	1	3	6	18*
No. of Accused Persons under 18 years	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed	5	0	1	0	0	0	5*
No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives	8	0	1	1	1	6	8*
No. of False Complaints	1	0	0		0	0	1

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 April 2020

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