



## ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

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

There were 56 people charged with a total of 65 counts of separate incidents in March. The offences were murder (3), attempted murder (1), manslaughter (1) aggravated robbery (14), robbery (1), aggravated burglary (8), attempted aggravated burglary (1), burglary (4), theft (13), arson (1), assault (1), serious assault (1), act with intent to cause grievous harm (1), forgery (5), obtaining by deception (1), dangerous driving (1), careless driving (2), unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (3), unlawful possession of illicit drugs (2) and unlawful importation of illicit drugs (1).

Of the 56 accused persons, five were juveniles and five were police officers. The juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences.

A 37-year-old and a 38-year-old police officer were charged with careless driving while a 37-year-old police officer was charged with dangerous driving.

A 52-year-old police officer was charged with theft of \$3,600 cash from proceeds of drug crime.

A 39-year-old police officer was charged with five counts of forgery and one count of obtaining by deception. It is alleged that the police officer forged documents to falsely claim he was attending court proceedings in order to take leave to visit his family.

There were 36 victims of the 65 counts of separate incidents. There were 4 incidents where the accused and the victims were related to one another.

A 41-year-old man was charged with the murder of his 32-year-old wife. The accused allegedly stabbed his wife with a knife.

A 34-year-old man was charged with the murder of his 35-year-old cousin after a drinking party while a 36-year-old man was charged with the murder of his 22-year-old cousin after the accused allegedly hit his cousin with a boat oar repeatedly which resulted in his death.

There was one incident where a 42-year-old man was charged with the attempted murder of his 41-year-old wife. The accused allegedly attempted to kill his wife with a hammer. The

accused also faces a charge of serious assault for assaulting a police officer while resisting arrest.

There was one incident where a 30-year-old man was charged with the manslaughter of a 23-year-old man. The accused was also charged with one count of robbery. The accused allegedly punched the victim while robbing him of his mobile phone causing the victim to fall back and hit his head on the pavement which resulted in his death.

A 30-year-old man was charged with arson for allegedly setting fire to his 40-year-old landlord's house causing damage of \$18,000.

A 26-year-old man was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous harm to his 39-year-old girlfriend. The accused allegedly stabbed his girlfriend with a knife.

A 28-year-old man was charged with the unlawful cultivation of 7.6 kilograms of *cannabis sativa* while in another incident, a 52-year-old man was charged with unlawful cultivation of 7 kilograms of *cannabis sativa*.

There was one incident where a 31-year-old man was charged with the unlawful importation of illicit drugs. The accused allegedly imported 1.6 kilograms of Butyrolactone which is an illicit substance.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$5 to over \$9000 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.

Six cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence.

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

**ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) March 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>Murder</b>	3	3	3	0	3	0
<b>Attempted murder</b>	1	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Manslaughter</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Aggravated robbery</b>	14	17	13	5	0	0
<b>Robbery</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Aggravated burglary</b>	8	11	6	1	0	0
<b>Attempted aggravated burglary</b>	1	3	1	0	0	0
<b>Burglary</b>	4	3	3	0	0	0
<b>Theft</b>	13	20	12	1	0	1
<b>Arson</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Assault</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Serious assault</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Act with intent to cause grievous harm</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Forgery</b>	5	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Obtaining financial advantage by deception</b>	1	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Dangerous driving</b>	1	1	2	0	0	1
<b>Careless driving</b>	2	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs</b>	3	2	0	0	0	0

<b>Unlawful possession of illicit drugs</b>	2	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Unlawful importation of illicit drugs</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>56*</b>	<b>36*</b>	<b>6*</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</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.

2 April 2020.

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