



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – July 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 88 people charged with a total of 98 counts of separate incidents in July. The offences were murder (5), attempted murder (1), manslaughter (1), aggravated robbery (9), aggravated burglary (25), burglary (1), theft (26), receiving stolen properties (2), assault causing actual bodily harm (4), acts with intent to cause grievous harm (7), grievous harm (3), arson (1), careless driving (1), failure to comply with orders (1), conspiracy (1), breach of suspended sentence (1), breach of bail conditions (1), breach of curfew orders (4), resisting arrest (1), damaging properties (2) and criminal trespass (1).

Of the 88 accused persons, 18 were juveniles and three were police officers. The juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences.

A 27-year-old police officer was charged with one count of failure to comply with orders whereby he breached the COVID restrictions on social gathering.

A 41-year-old police officer was charged with one count of assault causing actual bodily harm to his 35-year-old wife while a 36-year-old police officer was charged with one count of careless driving.

There were 41 victims of the 98 counts of separate incidents.

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

A 26-year-old man was charged with the murder of his 23-year-old brother. The accused allegedly locked his brother inside his bedroom and set fire to it.

In another incident, a 20-year-old and a 47-year-old man were charged with the murder of four elderly women. The accused persons allegedly set fire to the victims' house while they were sleeping. The accused persons were also charged with one count of attempted murder of another victim and one count of arson.

There was one incident where a 20-year-old man and a 28-year-old man were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft. They allegedly robbed three victims of \$530 cash and assorted items. The 20-year-old man was also charged with one count of

manslaughter while the 28-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 60-year-old woman. ***(NB: The offence of rape was recorded separately).***

A 32-year-old man was charged with one count of assault causing actual bodily harm and three counts of acts with intent to cause grievous harm to his 28-year-old wife. The accused was also charged with one count of breach of suspended sentence and one count of breach of bail conditions.

In another incident, a 64-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm and act with intent to cause grievous harm to his 50-year-old wife by strangling her after an argument.

There were two separate incidents where a 22-year-old and a 49-year-old man were charged with act with intent to cause grievous harm to a 31-year-old woman and a 49-year-old man.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$230 to \$25,000 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences which consisted of home invasions, church break-ins, shop and supermarket burglaries, and daylight and night street robberies.

Four 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 July 2020* for a break-down of these statistics.

**ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) July 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 |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Murder | 5 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Attempted Murder | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Manslaughter | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aggravated robbery | 9 | 15 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Aggravated burglary | 25 | 46 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Burglary | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Theft | 26 | 49 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Receiving stolen property | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Assault causing actual bodily harm | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Acts intended to cause grievous harm | 7 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Grievous harm | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Arson | 1 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Careless driving | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Failure to comply with orders | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Conspiracy | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Breach of suspended sentence | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Breach of bail conditions | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Breach of curfew orders | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Resisting arrest | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Damaging property | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Criminal trespass | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 98 | 88* | 41* | 3* | 4* | 3 |

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 August 2020.

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