



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – November 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 68 people charged with a total of 74 counts of separate incidents in November. The offences were manslaughter (4), aggravated robbery (13), robbery (1), robbery with violence (1), attempted aggravated robbery (1), aggravated burglary (11), burglary (1), attempted burglary (1), theft (12), arson (1), act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (2), assault causing actual bodily harm (1), unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (3), careless driving (1), dangerous driving (2), breach of zero alcohol limit (1), failure to supply breath specimen (1), embezzlement (1), conspiracy to pervert the cause of justice (1), criminal intimidation (1), unlawful wounding (1), wrongful confinement (1), damaging property (7), breach of curfew (5).

Of the 68 accused persons, nine were juveniles and five were police officers.

The juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences.

There were two separate incidents where a 56-year-old police officer and a 25-year-old police officer were charged with dangerous driving. The 25-year-old police officer was also charged with one count of breach of the zero alcohol limit.

A 42-year-old police officer was charged with one count of careless driving while a 43-year-old police officer was charged with one count of failure to supply a breath specimen.

A 33-year-old police officer was charged with one count of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, however, this matter was discontinued following a review of the evidence.

There were 49 victims of the 74 counts of separate incidents.

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

A 53-year-old man was charged with one count of vehicular manslaughter. The accused was allegedly driving a tractor which resulted in an accident and caused the death of his 11-year-old nephew.

In another incident, three men were charged with one count of manslaughter each. The accused persons allegedly assaulted a 56-year-old bus driver who later died due to his injuries.

A 67-year-old man was charged with one count of arson, however, this matter was discontinued due to the death of the victim.

A 45-year-old woman was charged with one count of embezzlement of \$67,778 from Oneata Post Office, however, this matter was discontinued after police lost the exhibits.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$2 to \$21, 288 as well as 800 Yuan were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences which consisted of home invasions, office and shop burglaries, taxi break-ins and daylight and night street robberies.

For the aggravated burglary and theft offences, there were five accused persons including two juveniles who were also charged with breach of curfew hours.

There were two separate incidents where a 27-year-old man and a 38-year-old man were charged with unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. They allegedly cultivated 7 kilograms and 11 kilograms of *cannabis sativa*, however these matters were discontinued due to insufficient evidence.

In another incident, an 18-year-old man was charged with unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. He allegedly cultivated 276 plants of *cannabis sativa*.

Fifteen cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence, death of the accused and victim, police losing exhibits, review of evidence, a police officer failing to appear in court to give evidence and evidence of police abuse.

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

**ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) November 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
Manslaughter	4	4	2	0	1	0
Aggravated robbery	13	19	17	5	0	0
Robbery	1	1	1	1	0	0
Robbery with violence	1	2	2	1	0	0
Attempted aggravated robbery	1	2	2	0	0	0
Aggravated burglary	11	21	14	1	0	0
Burglary	1	1	1	0	0	0
Attempted burglary	1	1	1	0	0	0
Theft	12	16	10	1	0	0
Arson	1	1	1	1	0	0
Act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm	2	2	2	1	0	0
Assault causing actual bodily harm	1	1	1	0	0	0
Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs	3	4	0	2	0	0
Careless driving	1	1	1	0	0	1
Dangerous driving	2	2	2	0	0	2
Breach of zero alcohol limit	1	1	0	0	0	1
Failure to supply breath specimen	1	1	0	0	0	1
Embezzlement	1	1	0	0	0	1
Conspiracy to pervert the course of justice	1	1	1	1	0	1

Criminal intimidation	1	1	1	1	0	0
Unlawful wounding	1	1	1	0	1	0
Wrongful confinement	1	4	1	0	1	0
Damaging property	7	2	2	0	0	0
Breach of curfew	5	5	0	0	0	0
Total	74	68*	49*	15*	3	4*
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 December 2020.

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