



## ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

### ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics – February 2021

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 20 people charged with a total of 48 counts of separate incidents in February. The offences were rape (33), abduction with intent to commit rape (1), and sexual assault (14).

Of the 20 people charged, two were juveniles and one was a police officer. A 13-year-old boy was charged with the rape of his 5-year-old cousin while a 16-year-old boy was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 11-year-old niece.

A 45-year-old police officer was charged with four counts of sexual assault of his 12-year-old de facto partner's daughter.

There were 22 victims of whom 16 victims were under the age of 18 years. There were 20 female victims and two male victims.

There were 11 incidents where the victims and the accused were related to one another.

A 67-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 10-year-old great-great-granddaughter. The accused was also charged with one count of indecently annoying. **(NB: *The offence of indecently annoying is not recorded in the statistics table*).**

A 39-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 16-year-old daughter.

There was one incident where a 49-year-old pastor was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 16-year-old niece.

In another incident, a 59-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 10-year-old and 7-year-old nieces.

A 64-year-old man was charged with four counts of rape and three representative counts of sexual assault of his 14-year-old niece while in another incident, a 33-year-old man was charged with four representative counts of rape of his 16-year-old niece.

There was one incident where a 58-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 19-year-old and 22-year-old sister-in-laws. The accused was also charged with one count of assault with intent to commit a felony. **(NB: *The offence of assault with intent to commit a felony is recorded separately*).**

A 23-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 14-year-old sister-in-law.

There was one incident where a 76-year-old man was charged with the rape, sexual assault and wrongful confinement of a 9-year-old girl whom he allegedly abducted off the street. **(NB: *The offence of wrongful confinement is recorded separately*).**

In another incident, a 22-year-old man was charged with the rape, sexual assault and abduction with intent to commit rape of a 17-year-old girl, however, this matter was discontinued after the victim admitted to making a false complaint.

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

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences February 2021* for a break-down of these statistics.



### ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics February 2021

	<b>Rape</b>	<b>Abduction with intent to commit rape</b>	<b>Indecent Assault</b>	<b>Sexual Assault</b>	<b>Total</b>
No. of Counts	33	1	0	14	<b>48</b>
Total No. of Victims	21	1	0	7	<b>22*</b>
No. of Victims under 18 years	15	1	0	6	<b>16*</b>
Total No. of Accused Persons	19	1	0	7	<b>20*</b>
No. of Accused Persons under 18 years	2	0	0	1	<b>2*</b>
No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed	6	1	0	2	<b>6*</b>
No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives	10	0	0	4	<b>11*</b>
No. of False Complaints	4	1	0	1	<b>4*</b>

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 March 2021**

**-End-**