



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

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

There were 80 people charged with a total of 77 counts of separate incidents in March. The offences were murder (1), attempted murder (6), manslaughter (1), manslaughter arising from breach of duty (1), aggravated robbery (10), aggravated burglary (17), burglary (3), theft (21), acts intended to cause grievous harm (8), assault causing actual bodily harm (2), complicity in the suicide of another (1), domestic trafficking in persons (1), arson (1), unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (1), unlawful possession of illicit drugs (1), dangerous driving (1) and wrongful confinement (1).

Of the 80 accused persons, four were juveniles, two were police officers and 10 were corrections officers.

Three juveniles were charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences while a 17-year-old boy was charged with the manslaughter of a 2-year-old boy. The accused allegedly rode a horse in a reckless manner which resulted in the child's death.

A 32-year-old police officer was charged with one count of dangerous driving while a 32-year-old police officer was charged with one count of unlawful possession of illicit drugs.

There was one incident where 10 Corrections officers were charged in relation to the assault and death of a serving prisoner at the Naboro Minimum Corrections Centre in 2019. Three of the officers were charged with assault causing actual bodily harm, nine officers were charged with acts intended to cause grievous harm and one officer was charged with complicity in the suicide of another.

There were 44 victims of the 77 counts of separate incidents.

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

A 24-year-old man was charged with the murder of a 75-year-old man. The accused was also charged with one count of theft of \$100 from the victim. The accused allegedly struck the victim on the head with an iron rod and stabbed him multiple times after the victim insulted him.

A 23-year-old woman was charged with the attempted murder of her 3 month old baby. The accused allegedly tried to suffocate her daughter.

In another incident, a 37-year-old man was charged with three counts of attempted murder. The accused allegedly tried to murder and stab his 30-year-old wife at two separate occasions and also stabbed a 26-year-old man.

A 48-year-old man was charged with the attempted murder and act intended to cause grievous harm to his brother and sister-in-law with a cane knife and a hammer.

A 51-year-old man was charged with the attempted murder of a 29-year-old woman, however, this matter was discontinued due to the inability to locate the victim.

A 39-year-old woman was charged with manslaughter arising from breach of duty. The accused's 6-year-old son died due to drowning, however, this matter was withdrawn later due to insufficient evidence.

There was one incident where a 36-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his 24-year-old wife with a metal rod, while in another incident, a 39-year-old man was charged with acts intended to cause grievous harm to his 34-year-old brother by using a cane knife.

In another incident, a 48-year-old man was charged with an act intended to cause grievous harm to a 6-year-old boy. The accused allegedly struck the child repeatedly on his head due to a disagreement with the child's father.

There was one incident where a 39-year-old man was charged with arson for allegedly setting fire to the Saint Giles reception area.

A 21-year-old woman was charged with domestic trafficking of a 16-year-old girl and a 17-year-old girl, however, this matter was discontinued after the victims admitted making a false complaint.

There was one incident where a 31-year-old woman, a 33-year-old man and a 35-year-old man were charged with acts intended to cause grievous harm to a 40-year-old man, however, this matter was discontinued for the present due to the inability to obtain a statement from the complainant who is in a vegetative state due to the assault.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$18 to \$32,489.86 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences which consisted of home invasions, shop and restaurant burglaries, taxi car jacks and daylight and night street robberies.

A 47-year-old man was charged with the unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs. He allegedly cultivated 205 plants of *cannabis sativa*.

Twelve cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence, evidence of police abuse and inability to locate victims.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics March 2021* for a break-down of these statistics.



ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) March 2021

	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	1	1	1	0	0	0
Attempted murder	6	4	6	1	2	0
Manslaughter	1	1	1	0	0	0
Manslaughter arising from breach of duty	1	1	1	1	1	0
Aggravated robbery	10	18	13	2	0	0
Aggravated burglary	17	31	12	4	0	0
Burglary	3	3	2	2	0	0
Theft	21	35	15	7	0	0
Act intended to cause grievous harm	8	15	5	1	1	0
Assault causing actual bodily harm	2	4	2	0	1	0
Complicity in the suicide of another	1	1	1	0	0	0
Domestic trafficking in persons	1	1	2	1	0	0
Arson	1	1	0	0	0	0
Unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs	1	1	0	0	0	0
Unlawful possession of illicit drugs	1	1	0	0	0	1
Dangerous driving	1	1	1	0	0	1
Wrongful confinement	1	1	1	0	0	0
Total	77	80*	44*	12*	4	2

*** 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.**

6 April 2021.

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