



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics – February 2022

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 42 counts of separate incidents in February. The offences were rape (29), attempted rape (2), abduction with intent to commit rape (1), indecent assault (3) and sexual assault (7).

Of the 20 people charged, one was a juvenile and one was a police officer. A 16-year-old boy was charged with the rape of a 36-year-old woman while a 29-year-old police officer was charged with the sexual assault of his 18-year-old cousin.

There were 21 victims of whom 11 victims were under the age of 18 years. There were 19 female victims and two male victims.

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

A 49-year-old man was charged with four counts of rape, one count of attempted rape and one count of sexual assault of his 14-year-old granddaughter.

A 24-year-old man was charged with the rape and attempted rape of his 14-year-old niece while in another incident, a 22-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 9-year-old niece.

There was one incident where a 26-year-old man was charged with three counts of indecent assault of his 6-year-old niece.

There was one incident where a 20-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 13-year-old and a 15-year-old boy. The victims are siblings and the accused is their cousin.

In another incident, a 20-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 7-year-old cousin.

A 49-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 43-year-old wife while in another incident, a 33-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 28-year-old sister-in-law.

There was one incident where a 34-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 37-year-old woman from his village. The accused allegedly broke into the victim's home and committed the offence.

A 67-year-old man was charged with rape and indecently annoying a 10-year-old girl, however, this matter was discontinued after the death of the accused.

A 55-year-old man was charged with the rape, sexual assault, criminal intimidation, indecently annoying and assault causing actual bodily harm to a 20-year-old woman, however, this matter was discontinued due to the inability to locate the victim.

In another incident, a 39-year-old man was charged with two counts of rape of a 27-year-old woman and a 31-year-old woman, however, this matter was discontinued due to the non-appearance of the victims.

There was one incident where a 22-year-old and a 27-year-old man were charged with the rape of a 22-year-old woman, however, this matter was discontinued after the victim admitted to making a false complaint.

A total of seven cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to inconsistent evidence, false complaints, inability to locate the victims and the death of the accused person.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences February 2022* for a break-down of these statistics.



ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics February 2022

| | Rape | Attempted rape | Abduction with intent to commit rape | Indecent Assault | Sexual Assault | Total |
|--|------|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------|
| No. of Counts | 29 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 42 |
| Total No. of Victims | 19 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 21* |
| No. of Victims under 18 years | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 11* |
| Total No. of Accused Persons | 18 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 20* |
| No. of Accused Persons under 18 years | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7* |
| No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives | 9 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 11* |
| No. of False Complaints | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3* |

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 2022

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