



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics – November 2023

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 26 people charged with a total of 39 counts of serious offences in November. The counts for serious crimes were murder (1), manslaughter (1), aggravated robbery (5), attempted aggravated robbery (1), aggravated burglary (7), theft (8), assault causing actual bodily harm (3), act with intent to cause grievous harm (1), serious assault (3), criminal intimidation (1), attempt to commit arson (1), arson (1), dangerous driving causing grievous harm (1) unlawful cultivation of illicit drugs (1), unlawful possession of illicit drugs (1), damaging property (1), giving false information to a public servant (1), and breach of DVRO (1).

There were 24 victims of the 39 counts of serious offences.

There was one incident where a 28-year-old man was charged with the murder of a 76-year-old woman. The accused person was also charged with one count of burglary and one count of theft.

In another incident, a 20-year-old man was charged with vehicular manslaughter. The accused person allegedly drove a vehicle in a reckless manner which caused an accident and resulted in the death of a 49-year-old woman. The accused person was also charged with dangerous driving causing grievous harm to a bystander.

A 33-year-old man was charged with an attempt to commit arson, damaging property and criminal intimidation. The accused person allegedly armed with a beer bottle with benzene in it and a hammer attempted to set fire to the Totogo Police Station and in the process damaged a landline and mobile phone as well as threatened the police officers who tried to restrain him.

A 48-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to a 12-year-old girl while in another incident, a 22-year-old man and a 23-year-old man were charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to a 19-year-old woman.

There was one incident where a 36-year-old man was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous harm to a 39-year-old man. The accused person allegedly assaulted the victim with a cane knife after an altercation on his farm.

Cash and assorted items ranging from \$40 to around \$15000 were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences which consisted of home invasions, shop and minimart burglaries, carjacking, day and night street robberies.

There was one incident where a 27-year-old man was charged with the aggravated burglary and theft of assorted items from 37-year-old man's house. The accused person was also charged with two counts of serious assault and one count of giving false information to a public servant.

A 52-year-old man was charged with arson of a 33-year-old man's property, however, this matter was discontinued due to insufficient evidence.

A 53-year-old man was charged with one count of unlawful cultivation of 60 plants of *cannabis sativa*. He was also charged with one count of unlawful possession of 176.6 grams of *cannabis sativa*.

Two 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 November 2023* for a break-down of these statistics.

*** 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. Statistics on Sexual violence offences are recorded and published separately.**

6 December 2023.

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