

ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Serious Crime (Non-Sexual Violence Offences) Statistics - March 2024

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 33 people charged with a total of 33 counts of serious offences in March. The counts for serious crimes were murder (1), aggravated robbery (8), aggravated burglary (6), theft (5), assault causing actual bodily harm (5), act with intent to cause grievous harm (4), criminal intimidation (1), attempted unlawful exportation of illicit drugs (1), damaging property (1) and breach of suspended sentence (1).

There were 26 victims of the 33 counts of serious offences.

There was nine incidents where the accused and the victim were related to one another.

A 39-year-old man was charged with the murder of his 38-year-old wife.

There was one incident where a 50-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm and criminally intimidating his 40-year-old de facto partner.

In another incident, a 22-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his 23-year-old de facto partner while in another incident, a 25-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his 2-year-old son.

A 38-year-old man was charged with assault causing actual bodily harm to his 15-year-old stepdaughter.

There was one incident where a 52-year-old man was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous harm to his 55-year-old de facto partner. The accused allegedly poured boiling water on the victim during an altercation.

A 43-year-old woman was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous bodily harm to her daughter. The accused allegedly hit her 16-year-old daughter multiple times with a mop handle.

In another incident, 24-year-old man was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous harm to his stepfather. The accused allegedly struck his 47-year-old stepfather with a cane knife during an altercation.

There was one incident where a 64-year-old woman was charged with an act with intent to cause grievous harm to her 64-year-old neighbour. The accused allegedly struck the victim twice on the chest and the shoulder with a kitchen knife.

Cash and assorted items were stolen during the alleged aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and theft offences which consisted of house and shop break-ins, and day and night street muggings.

There were two separate incidents of aggravated robbery whereby taxi drivers were robbed by their passengers. In one incident, a 21-year-old man and a 23-year-old man allegedly robbed a 31-year-old taxi driver of his taxi, mobile phone and \$200 cash.

In another incident, a 28-year-old man was charged with aggravated robbery. The accused allegedly robbed a 32-year-old taxi driver of his taxi and \$170 cash. The accused was also charged with the breach of his suspended sentence for a similar offence.

A 48-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman were charged with an attempted unlawful exportation of illicit drugs. The de facto partners were allegedly involved in the attempted exportation of 12.33 kilograms of cocaine.

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 March 2024* for a break-down of these statistics.

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ODPP Serious Crime (Non- Sexual Violence Offences) March 2024

| | 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 |
| Aggravated robbery | 8 | 12 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aggravated burglary | 6 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Theft | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Assault causing actual bodily harm | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Act with intent to cause grievous harm | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Criminal intimidation | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Attempted unlawful exportation of illicit drugs | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Damaging property | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Breach of suspended sentence | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 33 | 33* | 26* | 2* | 9* | 0 |
| TOTAL | | | | | S | ource: O |

* 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.

8 April 2024.

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