



## ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

### ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics – March 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 30 people charged with a total of 51 counts of separate incidents in March. The offences were rape (29), attempted rape (1), abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge (5), defilement (2) and sexual assault (14).

Of the 30 people charged, three were juveniles. A 13-year-old boy was charged with the rape of his 7-year-old stepbrother.

A 17-year-old boy was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 7-year-old niece while in another incident, a 17-year-old boy was charged with the rape of a 6-year-old boy.

There were 25 victims of whom 20 victims were under the age of 18 years. There were 23 female victims and two male victims.

There were 7 incidents where the victims and the accused were related to one another.

A 36-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 16-year-old stepdaughter while in another incident, a 30-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 15-year-old stepsister.

A 38-year-old man was charged with representative counts of rape and sexual assault of his 10-year-old niece.

There was one incident where a 26-year-old man was charged with three counts of abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge and two counts of defilement of his 15-year-old cousin.

A 44-year-old man was charged with the sexual assault of his 11-year-old cousin.

There was one incident where a 25-year-old man was charged with abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge of a 16-year-old girl from his neighbourhood.

In another incident, a 32-year-old man was charged with the abduction of a young person and the rape of a 13-year-old girl. The accused and the victim met each other after messaging on Tik Tok.

A 22-year-old man who was charged previously with sexual offences is facing an additional charge of rape and three counts of sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl.

There was one incident where a 50-year-old man was charged with rape, attempted rape and sexual assault of a 9-year-old girl from his village.

In another incident, a 38-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl. The accused and the victims were neighbours at the time of the incident.

A 31-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl while in another incident, a 23-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 17-year-old girl.

There was one incident where a 22-year-old man, a 37-year-old man and a 54-year-old man were charged with the rape of a 6-year-old girl, however, this matter was discontinued due to insufficient evidence.


In another incident, a 26-year-old man, a 32-year-old man and a 36-year-old man were charged with the rape of a 20-year-old woman, however, this matter was discontinued due to insufficient evidence.

There were two separate incidents where a 19-year-old man and a 24-year-old man were charged with the rape of two 17-year-old girls, however, both the matters were discontinued after the victims admitted to making false complaints.

In another incident, a 19-year-old man and a 22-year-old man were charged with the rape of a 16-year-old girl, however, this matter was discontinued after the victim admitted to making a false complaint.

A total of 10 cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to inconsistent and insufficient evidence, false complaints, and inability to locate or contact the victims.

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

 <b>ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics March 2022</b>						
	<b>Rape</b>	<b>Attempted rape</b>	<b>Abduction with intent to have carnal knowledge</b>	<b>Defilement</b>	<b>Sexual Assault</b>	<b>Total</b>
No. of Counts	29	1	5	2	14	<b>51*</b>
Total No. of Victims	22	1	3	1	9	<b>25*</b>
No. of Victims under 18 years	17	1	3	1	9	<b>20*</b>
Total No. of Accused Persons	27	1	3	1	9	<b>30*</b>
No. of Accused Persons under 18 years	3	0	0	0	1	<b>3*</b>
No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed	10	0	0	0	0	<b>10</b>
No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives	5	0	1	1	5	<b>7*</b>
No. of False Complaints	3	0	0	0	0	<b>3</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.**

**4 April 2022**

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