



ODPP Weekly Court Bulletin

17-21 August 2026

Case 1: Sonal Kumar, Abdul Saiban & Others

Charges:

- 1 count of manslaughter
- 1 count of accessory after the fact to manslaughter
- 1 count of manslaughter arising from breach of duty

Seven police officers charged in relation to the death of Richard Mock appeared at the Lautoka High Court today (20.8.26)

Police officers, Sonal Kumar and Fenton Thaggard are charged with one count of manslaughter. It is alleged that between 16 and 17 January 2025, the accused persons assaulted the victim which caused his death.

Abdul Saiban, retired police officer, is charged with one count of accessory after the fact to manslaughter. It is alleged that he assisted Sonal Kumar and Fenton Thaggard knowing that they were involved in the commission of an offence against the victim, in order to enable them to escape punishment.

Police officers Owen Smith, Isireli Nagilolevu, Ratu Peni Masara Ranamu and Ratu Filimoni Yawayawa are charged with one count of manslaughter arising from breach of duty. It is alleged that they failed to exercise due care and attention in the course of their duties, which led to the victim's death.

The State had earlier filed the Information and disclosures, following which the accused persons had pleaded not guilty.

The matter has been adjourned to **22 October 2026** for Pre-trial Conference and for State to prepare and finalise Pre-trial documentation before the hearing.

All accused persons bail was further extended.

Case 2: State-v-Vereti Tavisoro

Charges:

- One count of murder
- One count of burglary

Vereti Tavisoro charged with the murder of an elderly man appeared for first call in the Lautoka High Court this week.

The accused is charged with one count of murder and one count of burglary. It is alleged that the accused murdered a 77-year-old man in Matintar Nadi during the course of burglary, last month.

The accused chose to represent himself in the matter however, the High Court advised him to rethink and seek assistance from Legal Aid Commission.

The matter is adjourned to **31 August 2026** for Information and Disclosures. The accused was further remanded in custody.

Case 3: State v Tevita Tora and Leveni Vuebeti

Charges:

- One count of rape
- One count of murder

Two men charged in relation to the rape and murder of an 18-year-old woman appeared yesterday (20.8.26) in the Lautoka High Court.

Tevita Tora and Laveni Vuebeti face one count each of rape and one count each of murder. It is alleged that on 4 December 2025, the accused persons raped and murdered the woman. The victim was found lying motionless in a park in Lautoka.

The accused persons have applied for bail, however, the Defence have sought time to file their supplementary affidavit.

The matter is adjourned to **3 September 2026** for Information and Disclosures. Both accused persons have been remanded in custody.

Case 4: State-v-Joshua Ravula, Gina Choi and others

Charges:

- Unlawful possession of illicit drugs
- Unlawful supply of illicit drugs
- Possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime

The accused persons charged in relation to the Rewa Street drug case appeared in the Suva Magistrates' Court this week.

Josua Ravula is charged with the unlawful possession of 42.295 grams of methamphetamine. Ginna Choi, and Peniassi Delai are charged with the unlawful possession of 0.345 grams of methamphetamine.

Gina Choi is additionally charged with the possession of FJD\$977.60, PHP200 and USD\$4.00, suspected to be proceeds of crime.

Dai Ming Hui, Yu Yanfeng and Zhou Lan are charged with the unlawful possession of 39.509 grams of methamphetamine. Yu Yanfeng is additionally charged with the unlawful dealings with other persons for the transport and supply of methamphetamine and possession of FJD\$906.25, suspected to be proceeds of crime. Zhou Lan is additionally charged with the possession of FJD\$7,180.00, USD\$60.00, HKD\$1,520.00 and RMB¥1,600, suspected to be proceeds of crime.

The Defense counsels have indicated that all accused persons will remain silent, however, the Chinese translator was not present in court to confirm the same for the Chinese nationals. This is after the court had ruled that all six accused persons have a case to answer.

The matter is now adjourned to **27 August 2026** for Defence to confirm their position. All accused persons have been further remanded in custody.

There were two other accused persons in this matter. Lagomarcino Baules and Qing Qing Yin who had earlier pleaded guilty and are currently serving sentence.

Case 5: State v Artika Sharma & Ors

Charges:

- 1 count of attempted murder
- 2 counts of kidnapping
- 1 count of assault causing actual bodily harm and
- 1 count of damaging property

Artika Sharma, Ajay Kumar, Ravinal Anand and Sanjay Kumar appeared earlier this week before the Lautoka High Court in relation to the alleged kidnapping of a 20-year-old.

The four accused were initially charged with acts intended to cause grievous harm. However, following a review of the evidence, the charges were upgraded to attempted murder.

It is alleged that on 25 February 2026, the accused persons attempted to murder the 61-year-old man after he intervened to save the 20-year-old woman from being kidnapped.

The State had earlier filed the Information and Disclosures.

All accused persons are yet to take their plea.

The matter is adjourned to **28 September 2026** for plea. The accused persons bail was further extended.