



ODPP Weekly Court Bulletin

20 – 24 July 2026

Case 1: Anare Vuli Cilicewa

Charge:

- 1 count of murder

The Suva High Court has convicted Anare Vuli Cilicewa of one count of murder in relation to the death of 25-year-old Shabreen Shain Ali.

The offence occurred in Raiwaqa, Suva, in September 2024. The Court heard that the accused and the deceased were known to each other and that Anare Vuli Cilicewa murdered the victim following an argument.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge. The trial commenced on 9 April 2026, during which the prosecution called 10 witnesses before closing its case. The accused elected to give evidence in his own defence and did not call any other witnesses.

In delivering the judgment today (24.7.26) Justice Pita Bulamainivalu accepted the evidence of the prosecution witnesses. The Court found that the accused used a broken bottle to inflict a serious injury to the deceased's left arm, forced a condom stuffed with cloth into her mouth, manually strangled her, and then used an electric cord to further strangle her by tying it around her neck. The Court also found that the accused tied the deceased's hands and legs, wrapped her body in a bedsheet, and dragged it downstairs, where it was later discovered beneath a single bed by police.

Justice Bulamainivalu found that the prosecution had proved beyond reasonable doubt that the accused intended to cause the deceased's death, or was reckless as to causing her death, when he committed the offence.

The accused was found guilty and convicted of accordingly. He was remanded in custody and is scheduled to be sentenced on 31 July 2026.

Case 2: Komal Sapna Singh & Susana Radinivulagi

Charges:

- 1 count of manslaughter
- 1 count of manslaughter arising from breach of duty

Susana Radinivugalei has been convicted of one count of manslaughter arising from a breach of duty and sentenced to two years' imprisonment, suspended for three years, following the death of her grandson, who was in her care at the time of the incident.

On 29 January 2026, Susana Radinivugalei took two of her grandchildren, including three-year-eight-month-old Elijah Jibola, to school along Mission Road in Sigatoka. During the journey, the woman crossed the road at a pedestrian crossing in Sigatoka Town with her elder grandchild, leaving the victim approximately 10 metres behind. The court heard that while woman and the elder grandchild reached the other side of the road, the victim crossed the road on his own and was struck by an oncoming vehicle. He was rushed to Sigatoka Hospital, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

Susana Radinivugalei had admitted to the negligence and pleaded guilty to the charge. The court accepted her plea and subsequently convicted her of manslaughter arising from breach of duty. The court accepted that she was genuinely remorseful, fully cooperated with police investigations, and had no previous convictions.

Justice Sunil Sharma acknowledged that grandmother had already suffered the devastating loss of her grandson and continued to care for her other grandchildren. However, he emphasised the seriousness of the offence, that the tragedy could have been avoided had the child not been left unattended, and that no amount of repentance could bring the child back.

In sentencing, Justice Sharma adopted a starting point of five years' imprisonment which was reduced by two years due to Susana Radinivugalei good character and personal circumstances, with a further reduction of one year for her early guilty plea and remorse. He sentenced her to two years imprisonment which is suspended for three years.

As part of her sentence, Susana Radinivugalei is required to complete two sessions of general and parental counselling through the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection within three months and if she fails to comply with the court order, she will then be subjected to the due process of committal.

Meanwhile, the driver of the vehicle, Komal Sapna Singh, has pleaded not guilty to the offence of manslaughter. The matter has been adjourned for a Pre-Trial Conference on 4 August 2026, and her bail has been further extended.

Case 3: State-v- Nouzab Fareed

Charge:

- 2 counts of indecent assault

Former Fijian Holdings Limited CEO Mohammed Nouzab Fareed has been convicted on two counts of indecent assault involving a young female subordinate. The offences occurred on 25 June and 13 September 2019.

The court found that the accused hugged, sniffed and kissed the complainant without her consent during the first incident. In the second incident, which occurred in his office, the court found he sniffed her hair, kissed her forehead, ran his fingers around her ear and placed his hands around her chest without her consent. The complainant's evidence was corroborated by an audio recording, which the court accepted as supporting her account.

The court rejected the defence case, finding the accused's evidence unconvincing and not telling the truth.

The court also found that the defence assertion of the complainant fabricating the allegations because of a personal vendetta against the accused due to dress code violation or monetary gain to be absurd. Additionally the court found that the accused greeted female staff affectionately and called them dear or darling had the negative effect of portraying him as “sleazy” and does not help the defendant’s case at all.

Following his conviction, Nouzab Fareed's bail was revoked and he was remanded in custody. The matter was called yesterday afternoon after he applied for fresh bail pending sentence. The court will deliver its ruling on the bail application on 30 July, while sentence hearing is scheduled for 12 August.

Case 4: State v JG

Charges:

- 2 representative counts of indecent assault
- 1 representative count of rape
- 2 counts of rape
- 1 count of sexual assault
- 1 count of attempted rape.

A 22-year-old man was found guilty by the Suva High Court for sexually assaulting his first cousin on multiple occasions from 2021 to 2024.

The accused was charged with two representative counts of indecent assault, three counts of rape of which one was representative count, one count of sexual assault and one count of attempted rape.

The accused was 17 years old and the complainant was 14-year-old when the assault began in 2021. They lived in the same settlement at the time of the incident.

On the first occasion in 2021, the man indecently assaulted the complainant while she was sleeping in the living room with others. Following that incident, he continued to rape the complainant during multiple occasions in 2023 and 2024.

In July 2024, the accused broke into the house by removing the glass louvre blade and entering the complainant’s house whilst she was studying. The accused attempted to rape her but the attack was interrupted when the accused's mother called his name from outside.

The complainant was confronted by the accused’s mother regarding their relationship who then disclosed all the incidents to her. The accused’s mother advised the victim not to say anything to anyone until she spoke to the complainant’s father the next morning.

The complainant, frustrated and angered by the accused’s mother’s response, ran to her friend’s house and disclosed what had occurred. With the assistance of her friend’s elder sister, the matter was reported to police.

In her testimony, the victim explained that she did not report the incident earlier due to the close relationship between their families and her fear of the possible consequences of doing so.

In his defence, the accused claimed that he believed they were considered “husband and wife” under the Fijian custom due to their first-cousin relationship. He acknowledged that the complainant did not consent to sex he proceeded anyways because of his deep love for her.

The court found the accused guilty of two counts of rape, one count of indecent assault, one count of sexual assault and one count of attempted rape and convicted him accordingly.

The accused was remanded in custody pending sentence hearing next week.

Case 5: State v Edward Nand, Semi Naisevunivai & Viliame Vulawalu

Charge:

- 1 count of murder

Edward Nand, Semi Naisevunivai & Viliame Vulawalu charged with the murder of Afroz Khan appeared this morning (24.7.26) at the Suva High Court.

It is alleged that they held the victim hostage and murdered him between November 27 and December 27, 2024. The accused person are alleged to have demanded a \$10,000 ransom from the victim's wife and when the ransom was not delivered, the accused persons assaulted the victim and drowned him in a river in Naitasiri.

All three accused persons have pleaded not guilty.

The State has served the first part of voir dire disclosures to Edward Nand and has requested further time to serve the other two accused persons.

The matter is adjourned to 31 August 2026. Semi Naisevunivai & Viliame Vulawalu's bail was further extended while Edward Nand who was convicted and sentenced for another murder charge had his production order extended.