



ODPP Weekly Court Bulletin

27-31 July 2026

Case 1: Reena Devi Chand

Charge:

- 1 count of murder

Reena Devi Chand, who is charged with one count of murder, appeared for first call at the Suva High Court this morning (31.7.26).

It is alleged that on Christmas Eve last year, the accused intentionally set fire to a house in Samabula, resulting in the death of a 19-year-old woman who became trapped inside the burning house.

The State has been given time to file the Information and disclosures.

The matter is adjourned to 4 September 2026 for plea.

The accused was further remanded in custody.

Case 2: Anare Vuli Cilicewa

Charge:

- 1 count of murder

Anare Vuli Cilicewa convicted of one count of murder in relation to the death of 25-year-old Shabreen Shain Ali appeared at the Suva High Court this morning for his sentence hearing.

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 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.

The Court granted Defence additional time to file their submissions. The court has instructed both the State and Defence to file their respective submissions by 31 August.

The matter is adjourned to 4 September 2026 for sentence hearing and the accused has been further remanded in custody.

Case 3: Daniel O'brien Lal

Charge:

- 1 count of manslaughter by recklessness

The Suva High Court has sentenced Daniel O'Brien Lal to 6 years and 8 months' imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter by recklessness.

Daniel O'Brien Lal was charged alongside three co-accused for assaulting a man which resulted in his death. The three co-accused have pleaded not guilty and are awaiting trial. The offence occurred on 29 May 2023 in Nasinu. Daniel O'Brien Lal repeatedly punched and kicked the victim on his rib, stomach including the head, stripped him to his undergarments, and transported him between multiple locations before returning him to his home, where the assault continued. The victim sustained severe injuries, was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at CWM Hospital, and subsequently passed away on 2 July 2023. The assault followed an altercation over stolen packets of crystals and payment.

In sentencing, Justice Pita Bulamainavalu adopted a starting point of 7 years' imprisonment and increased it by 3 years for aggravating factors. The Court found that Lal played a leading role by directing that the deceased be captured after the crystals were stolen and by actively participating in the prolonged assault.

The Court reduced the sentence by 1 year for mitigating factors, including Lal's age, family circumstances, cooperation with police, and remorse. A further reduction of 1 year and 4 months was applied for time spent in remand, followed by an additional 1-year discount for guilty plea, resulting in a final sentence of 6 years and 8 months' imprisonment with a non-parole period of 6 years.

Case 4: State-v- Nouzab Fareed

Charges:

- 2 counts of indecent assault

Former Fijian Holdings Limited CEO Mohammed Nouzab Fareed's bail pending sentence matter was called this week before the Suva Magistrates 'Court.

Nouzab Fareed was 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.

Following his conviction, Nouzab Fareed's bail was revoked and he was remanded in custody, thereafter his counsel filed bail pending sentence.

The State objected to the application.

His application was denied and he was further remanded in custody. The matter will be called on 7 August 2026 for sentencing and mitigation submissions while the sentence is schedule for 12 August 2026.

Case 5: Vatia drug bust

Charges:

- Conspiracy to commit unlawful possession of illicit drugs
- Unlawful possession of illicit drugs
- Unlawful entry into Fiji
- Possession of properties suspected to be proceeds of crime

The State is seeking to consolidate the four separate matters relating to the Vatia drug case. The matter was called this morning (31.7.26) at the Ba High Court

The accused persons are Alejandro Juvenal Yagual Gonzalez, Luciano Enrique Mero Sanchez, Ramon Isidro Vega Parraga, Jonathan Javier Solorzano Bermello, Bainivalu Suguturaga Ponipate Seuvou Mateyawa, John Toatala, Merewalesi Qolimaiwasa, Norman Fisher, Manasa Saladrau, Anaseini Rokolati, Anand Kumar, and Vishwa Nandan.

The accused persons face charges arising from the alleged seizure of approximately 2,644.5 kilograms of cocaine in Vatia waters. The four Ecuadorian nationals are also charged with unlawful entry into Fiji.

The State has served the Defence with four volumes of electronic and physical disclosure materials.

The State also filed a *Nolle Prosequi* in respect of Vishwa Nandan, who was subsequently discharged by the Court.

The Court was advised that the State will file the consolidated application within the next 14 days, after which the Defence will file its response.

The matter has been adjourned to 4 September 2026. All remaining accused persons have been further remanded in custody.

Case 6: Civil Forfeiture matter

The State appeared for an inter parte mention of its application for a restraining order over rental income generated from two restrained Denarau properties, pending determination of a civil forfeiture application. The State had earlier filed a restraining order application and a subsequent forfeiture application on the two properties valued approximately \$8.2 million comprising an area of 1,293 square meters, a property and a land comprising of 1,157 square meters, in Denarau, Nadi, identified during a financial investigation as properties used to store the 4.1 tonnes illicit drugs. The respondents in the matter are Denarau Fitness PTE LTD, Sam Amine, Rasha Kurdi and Mherina Ali Ahmed.

The two properties remain under restraint pursuant to orders granted by the High Court last year. The State is seeking final forfeiture orders under section 19(c)–(e) of the Proceeds of Crimes Act 1997.

The matter has been adjourned to 11 September 2026 for an interim ruling and to 2 November 2026 for the substantive hearing of the civil forfeiture application including orders relating to the rental income derived from the properties.