

ODPP Weekly Court Bulletin

5-9 October 2026

Case 1: State-v- Aiden Alec Hurtado

Charge:

- One count of unlawful possession of illicit drugs

The Suva High Court called the case of *State v Aiden Alec Hurtado* this morning to ascertain the status of the 18 kilograms of cocaine tendered as exhibits and determine whether the drugs had been destroyed following the conclusion of the trial.

Colombian national Aiden Alec Hurtado was convicted in 2017 for the unlawful importation of 18 kilograms of cocaine into Fiji in 2014.

He was initially acquitted in 2015. Following an appeal by the State, the matter was remitted to the Suva High Court for a re-trial, which resulted in his conviction. Aiden Alec Hurtado was subsequently sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment, with a non-parole period of 15 years. After taking into account the time he had already spent in remand, his final sentence was 13 years and 11 months' imprisonment, with a non-parole period of 11 years and 11 months.

During proceedings this morning, Justice Thushara Rajasinghe sought confirmation from the State on the status of the drug exhibits.

The State informed the Court that the drugs have not been destroyed and remain in police custody.

Justice Rajasinghe ordered the State to re-test the contents and verify the weight of the drugs. Upon confirmation, the Court will make further orders as necessary.

The matter was adjourned to **23 October 2026** for mention to check on the test and weight of the illicit drugs.

Case 2: State-v-Simione Rokosemudu, Iowane Sukanaisoro and Ilisoni Waqa

Charges:

- One count of murder

Three police officers charged in relation to the death of Lami Police Constable Peniasi Racagi appeared for first mention before the Suva Magistrates' Court this morning (9.10.26)

The accused persons, Simione Rokosemudu, Iowane Sukanaisoro and Ilisoni Waqa, have been jointly charged with murder, contrary to Section 237 of the Crimes Act 2009.

It is alleged that the three police officers with another between 21 and 22 February at Lami, as either joint principals or secondary offenders or either as aiders and abettors murdered Constable Racagi.

The charges were read to all three accused persons in their preferred language, English, and they confirmed that they understood the charge.

The accused persons were informed of their right to legal representation. All three elected to seek legal assistance from the Legal Aid Commission and were directed to make the necessary applications.

The State applied to transfer the matter to the Suva High Court due to the seriousness of the murder charge.

The application was granted, and the matter will be called for its first call before the Suva High Court on **23 October 2026**.

All three accused persons have been remanded in custody.

Case 3: State-v-Jiuta Naivalrua Raibevu

Charges:

- One count of interfering with evidence
- One count of unlawful possession of illicit drugs

A 51-year-old man charged in relation to the missing exhibits at the Suva High Court registry appeared for first mention at the Suva Magistrates' Court this morning (9.10.26).

Jiuta Naivalrua Raibevu is charged with another with one count of interfering with evidence and one count of unlawful possession of illicit drugs.

It is alleged that the accused together with another, unlawfully interfered, seized and possessed 39.5 kilograms of cocaine from the Suva High Court registry. The alleged offences occurred between 23 March 2021 and 15 September 2026.

The charges were read to the accused, in his preferred language, iTaukei, and he confirmed that he understood the charges.

The accused person was informed of his right to legal representation. He elected to seek legal assistance from the Legal Aid Commission and was directed to make the necessary applications.

The State was directed to address the issue of jurisdiction and clarify whether the matter should remain before the Suva Magistrates' Court or should be transferred to the Suva High Court.

The matter was adjourned to **23 October 2026**. The accused has been remanded in custody.

Case 4: State-v- Saint George Sisi Talei & Tofua Raiyasi

Charges:

- One count of grievous harm

A suspended police officer and his partner appeared before the Nasinu Magistrates' Court earlier this week in relation to the alleged assault of a 12-year-old boy.

Saint George Sisi Talei and his partner, Tofua Raiyasi, are jointly charged with one count of grievous harm.

It is alleged that the pair unlawfully and maliciously caused grievous harm to the child by assaulting him with an electrical extension cord on 8 September 2026.

The charges were read to both accused persons, who confirmed that they understood them. They were informed of their right to legal representation and both elected to seek assistance from the Legal Aid Commission.

The State filed and served both accused persons with the first-phase disclosures.

The State objected to bail on the grounds of the domestic relationship between the accused persons and the victim, as well as the possibility of interference.

The Court issued an interim Domestic Violence Restraining Order against the accused persons to protect the victim and advised them to file formal bail applications.

The matter was adjourned to **21 October 2026**. Both accused persons have been remanded in custody.

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