

Bootlegger denies stabbing clerk

Says he brawled with him after he failed to pay for alcohol.

- By Bassam Za'Za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: A visitor has denied robbing and stabbing a clerk but says he fought with the clerk after he refused to pay for alcohol, a court heard on Tuesday.

Prosecutors accused a 27-year-old Guinean visitor of stabbing an Algerian clerk with a pocketknife three times. The visitor, O.S., is also accused of stealing the clerk's money, mobile phone and wristwatch. The visitor pleaded not guilty before the Dubai Court of First Instance.

O.S. told the court: "I did not use force or rob him. He came to buy alcohol from my place ... after he drank, he refused to pay.

"When I asked him to leave something in my possession as a guarantee [until he pay] he got irritated and we brawled".

Prosecutors accused O.S. of stabbing the Algerian clerk and stealing his Dh460, mobile phone and wristwatch. O.S. was also charged with possessing 109 cans of beer and 11 whisky bottles for trading.

The clerk, 20, said: "I paid Dh500 for my drink and O.S. gave me the balance, which I immediately put in my pocket ... when I wanted to leave, the runaway and the suspect attacked me then robbed me".

A verdict will be handed down on October 5.

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