

Botched surgery: Court upholds closure of clinic

The Dubai Cassation Court on Sunday confirmed the judgment to close the clinic after upholding a two-month suspended imprisonment on a Lebanese cosmetic specialist [who managed the clinic] for partly being responsible for the death

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Dubai: The ruling to shut down a private clinic following a botched breast enlargement surgery, which led to death of a Belarusian woman, became final on Sunday.

The Dubai Cassation Court on Sunday confirmed the judgment to close the clinic after upholding a two-month suspended imprisonment on a Lebanese cosmetic specialist [who managed the clinic] for partly being responsible for the death. The Lebanese woman was found guilty of aiding and abetting a French doctor [who performed the surgery].

The Dubai Misdemeanours Court had earlier jailed the French doctor for one year after he was convicted of unlawfully operating on the woman and being responsible for her death.

The clinic's equipment will be confiscated. The concerned authorities will implement the closing decision as per the required procedures.

Medical records said the kidneys and liver of the 24-year-old Belarusian, F.S., failed due to a bacterial contamination in her blood and she died after being given what prosecutors described as a "wrong injection".

The Cassation Court on Sunday also confirmed that the Lebanese woman will have to pay a Dh3,000 fine.

She will also have to jointly pay [along with the Frenchman who is at large and was sentenced in absentia] Dh200,000 in blood money to F.S.'s family.

The Dubai Appeals Court had upheld the primary judgment.

The cosmetic specialist had appealed the appeals ruling before the Cassation Court unlike the French doctor, who was sentenced in absentia and remains wanted by the local authorities.

Prosecutors had accused the doctor and the specialist of accidentally causing the woman's death after giving her a wrong injection.

The defendants had denied what they described as the prosecutor's "baseless and groundless accusation" when they earlier defended themselves in court.

The Public Prosecution charged the doctor with causing the accidental death of F.S. after injecting her with a gelatin substance in the muscles and tissues of her breast.

The Frenchman was accused of practising medicine without obtaining a licence from the health authorities.

The cosmetic specialist was charged with aiding and abetting the doctor by allowing him to use her clinic and injecting the deceased with what prosecutors described as a "wrong injection".

"According to articles 99 and 100 of Federal Penal Code, the court granted the Lebanese woman a lenient sentence after considering her age, ethics and the case's circumstances.

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