

# Death row convicts in Dubai lose second plea

Appeal Court upholds decision in case of premeditated murder and robbery

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Dubai: Two prisoners who have been on death row since 2002 for the premeditated murder of a salesman and stealing from him Dh5 million worth of diamonds have lost a second plea to reduce their death sentence.

The Dubai Appeal Court on Sunday upheld the primary court's decision [in which the first plea was rejected] against 31-year-old Russian, S.A., and 35-year-old Ukrainian, S.N.

"The court has upheld the Dubai Court of First Instance's decision and refused the claimants' appeal," said Presiding Judge Eisa Al Sharif in courtroom 20.

In October, the Court of First Instance rejected the prisoners' special plea to reduce their death sentences after they submitted a written waiver they obtained from the blood parents of the Indian salesman, A.B., who was killed in 2001.

Their lawyer Abdul Rahman Al Mutawaa handed the court a written plea to reduce his clients' death sentence to one year, after the salesman's blood parents dropped their complaint against S.A. and S.N. Al Mutawaa mentioned in the plea that the salesman's family collected the blood money [Dh150,000 — the value of blood money in 2001] and dropped their charges against the killers.

"We pardon S.A. and S.N. and we hold no grudge against them. We pardon them for ever. This is to certify that we only collected the blood money amount and nothing else," said the written waiver.