

Dubai suspects accused of conning elderly American

Victim paid Dh400,000 after being told he had won \$3m

- By Sara Janahi, Staff Reporter
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Dubai: Police say they arrested two African nationals accused of scamming a 74-year-old American man online and threatening to kill him.

The two suspects, S.B. and K.A. were arrested on November 24 and 25. The first suspect was arrested in his home in another emirate while the second was arrested near a shopping mall in Dubai.

"The victim had received an e-mail in 2007 from the suspects stating that he won \$3 million from a reputable software company. The suspects informed him via e-mail that he has to go through a specific procedure in order to receive his prize," Major Salah Bu Osaibah, director of the Anti-Economic Crimes Department at Dubai Police told Gulf News.

The victim, who has lived in the country since the 1960s and works as a project manager in a petroleum company, began transferring amounts of money to the suspects through Western Union.

After a few e-mails, the suspects provided him with their contact details in order to communicate with him. The victim and the suspects met on various occasions after that.

"He sent them more than Dh400,000 in the span of two years. He said he wanted to win the money in order to help his children. When he had enough and told the suspects that he would not pay what they demanded for any more, they threatened to kill him. That's when he decided to inform the police about it," said Major Bu Osaibah.

Ambush

The victim informed the police on November 23, and in the next two days the suspects were arrested. When the police searched the furnished apartment of the first suspect, they said they found two laptops containing forged files and e-mails sent to the victim. The first suspect allegedly confessed to the crime and said the second suspect handled the money transactions in Dubai, police said. The second suspect was arrested the following day. Police urged the public to report any online scams or forgeries.

"You shouldn't trust the first person who e-mails you or calls you up stating that you won an award. Check the company details, check with the mentioned company if the information is true. If you realise that a possible scam is unfolding, don't hesitate to report it to the police," warned Major Bu Osaibah

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