

Man gets 3 years for robbing grandfather of Dh1.7m

Suspect argues he only took mother's inheritance

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: A 35-year-old Emirati was sentenced to three years in jail for carting away a safe containing Dh1.7 million from his grandfather's house.

Two of his accomplices — a 34-year-old Emirati identified as H.J., and Y.Y., a Yemeni carpenter — were also convicted of robbery by the Dubai Court of First Instance.

The carpenter will be deported after serving his sentence, according to the decision handed down by Presiding Judge Al Saeed Mohammad Barghout.

Tuesday's judgement is appealable within 15 days.

The defendants initially pleaded not guilty to the charge. The 35-year-old, identified only as B.M., said they did not steal the money and argued he only took his mother's share of her inheritance.

He claimed that his 77-year-old grandfather, identified as M.G., was planning to disinherit his mother. The two accomplices meanwhile told the court they were not aware they were committing a crime, saying they were only incited to help B.M. take the money.

According to prosecution records, the defendants barged into M.G.'s home and tied his Sri Lankan housemaid to a chair. The maid, identified as K.O., said she was taken by surprise as one of the defendants posed as a policeman

M.G. testified that he discovered he had been robbed at around 11am. "My grandson is the only person who knew about the safe and the money," M.G. told prosecutors.

"I heard the housemaid, K.O., crying for help from behind one of the doors. She was chained to the chair and locked up in the room which was locked from the outside," he said.

An Emirati police officer testified that preliminary investigations led to the trio's arrest.

"They confessed that B.M. masterminded the whole crime and they split the money after they opened the safe in a desert area using sharp tools," the police officer claimed.

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