

Man plays Dh1m prank on police

Prosecutors accused the 31-year-old of phoning three police officers at Dubai International Airport and threatening to blow up Dubai malls and skyscrapers if they refused to pay him money and release his three friends

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: A Pakistani blamed it on poverty when he admitted in court on Wednesday that he threatened to blow up different landmarks in Dubai if police didn't pay him Dh1 million.

Prosecutors accused the 31-year-old prankster, H.A., of phoning three police officers at Dubai International Airport and threatening to blow up Dubai malls and skyscrapers if they refused to pay him money and release his three friends [who are detained in Sharjah for their alleged involvement in a murder].

"I am guilty... but I did so because I was unemployed for six months... ," said H.A. when he appeared before the Dubai Court of First Instance.

When asked by Presiding Judge Fahmi Mounir Fahmi whether he verbally threatened three police officers to blow up the airport, skyscrapers and shopping malls in Dubai, the defendant contended: "Sir, I was bankrupt and in a state of complete hopelessness... I picked the phone and dialled a random number without recognising whether it was a government department, the airport or any ordinary people. And yes I asked them to pay me Dh1 million because I was broke and unemployed".

A verdict will be heard on January 30.

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