

# Officer acquitted of letting woman re-enter country

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DUBAI — The Court of Appeal has upheld the acquittal of an Emirati officer of the Directorate General of the Residency and Foreigners Affairs of allowing an Iraqi woman, who had been deported before, to reenter the country after taking a bribe.

The Court of Appeal also upheld recently the acquittal of a Yemeni policeman, the Iraqi's husband, of offering a bribe.

The Court of First Instance had cleared the two public officers of the charges on March 14.

However, it had sentenced the Iraqi woman to three months in jail followed by deportation as she was found guilty of offering a bribe and returning to the country despite a ban on her.

The Public Prosecution appealed the acquittal verdict against the two officers only. According to the case, the 32-year-old Emirati sergeant, who works at the Iris Scan - Entry Permit Section in the Dubai International Airport, sought Dh55,000 in bribe for allowing the Iraqi woman enter the UAE although she had been deported, thus breaching his commitment to the official duties.

The prosecution accused him of using unlawfully the seal, which belongs to the residency department, granting the Iraqi entry.

The Iraqi woman re-entered the country though she was deported by the Sharjah Police for indulging in prostitution. She, along with her husband, the Yemeni policeman, allegedly offered a bribe to the sergeant.

When questioned by the Follow-up and Investigation Section, the residency department sergeant said he allowed the woman entry only due to negligence as he failed to check her previous iris scan report.

However, he changed his statement later and admitted that he was aware that she was deported but allowed her entry. He said he liked her and took her mobile number and then she visited him in his Ras Al Khaimah residence where he had sex with her many times.

He said she gave him Dh5,000 when he allowed her entry to the country. He later asked for Dh50,000 from her husband.

The Yemeni policeman said during investigation that his marriage with the Iraqi woman was arranged by one of his friends. He made a friend sign on his behalf on the marriage certificate and tried to get a visa for his Iraqi wife.

A few days later, as he was checking on the police system electronically, he came to know that his wife was deported by the Sharjah Police for prostitution. They met each for the first time at the police station and they did not recognise each other. Later, as he was returning from Yemen, he was arrested in connection with the case.

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