

Prisoner denies arson, claims he was smoking

Prosecutors accused the 27-year-old Emirati inmate of arson

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: An inmate alleged in court yesterday that he caused an accidental fire inside his prison cell when he was smoking.

Prosecutors accused the 27-year-old Emirati inmate of arson by setting his mattress and bed on fire.

He was also charged with cursing and assaulting one of the jail wardens and damaging government-owned properties [bed and mattress] worth Dh917.

"I lit up a cigarette but I didn't intend to set the bed or mattress on fire ... I am not guilty on the count of arson. I didn't even curse or assault the jail warden," argued 27-year-old R.M. when he defended himself before the Dubai Court of First Instance.

During prosecution questioning, R.M. alleged that he told the prison wardens "animals, inhumane and insensitive ... you go home and enjoy your time while the inmate dies and you claim that he committed suicide".

The Emirati jail warden told prosecutors that R.M. cursed at him during questioning and then he saw smoke coming from his cell. The warden said the fire was deliberately set.

Presiding Judge Fahmi Mounir adjourned the case until November 21 to hear prosecution statements.

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