

Serviceman awaits verdict on brawl, assault charges

Prosecution records show two policemen were injured

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: An American naval officer, convicted of being involved in a drunken brawl and assaulting two policemen, will be sentenced by the Dubai Misdemeanours Court on Wednesday.

Prosecutors charged the 20-year-old American with assaulting two policemen performing their duties and for consuming alcohol.

He appeared in court recently and denied being in a brawl with the policemen and assaulting them but he confessed that he had consumed liquor, sources close to the case told *Gulf News*.

According to the arraignment sheet, prosecutors said 20-year-old J.C. beat the two policemen, A.M. and A.A., while he was under the influence of liquor.

The incident happened at a petrol station, according to prosecution records, around 11.45pm in Umm Suqeim while the soldier was picking up a McDonald's meal.

Gulf News has learnt that the two policemen waived their rights and dropped their case against J.C. while the case was still being investigated by the Public Prosecution.

Yet prosecutors charged the American with assaulting the two policemen and for drinking.

An Arab man [believed to be Lebanese], identified as M.J., reported to police that he was in a taxi along with the accused when they stopped at a McDonald's branch and a scuffle ensued between J.C. and a 28-year-old Indian cook, C.M.

A police car, which carried A.M. and A.A., arrived at the petrol station. Preliminary police interrogations revealed that J.C. had a heated argument with C.M. before it evolved into a fight and the American punched C.M.'s face repeatedly.

While the policemen were cross-examining the parties involved in the scuffle and trying to stop J.C. from continuing to assault C.M., the American resisted and assaulted the policemen. Prosecution records said the policemen were injured.

The American was taken into custody before being released on bail later.

A.A. and A.M. testified before the prosecutor, who questioned them, that the suspect had assaulted them while they tried to stop him from assaulting the cook.

J.C. alleged during prosecution questioning that he did not assault the victims and claimed that he was not aware of his actions and didn't remember the details of what happened because he was intoxicated.

Meanwhile C.K. claimed that J.C. assaulted him without reason.

The two policemen and the cook waived their charges against the naval officer before the case was referred to court.

A judgment is expected on Wednesday.

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