

# Suspect mistook officers for Taliban

Visitor offered hashish to taxi driver

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
- Published: 00:00 December 28, 2010



Dubai: An American suspect thought he was being apprehended by members of the Taliban when a Dubai anti-narcotics police team disguised in Pakistani national dress detained him on drug charges.

"He was petrified and resisted arrest when he confused the anti-narcotics police team members [who wore the Pakistani shalwar and kameez] for Taliban members... he screamed that they were not from the police, thinking they were Taliban. Yet the anti-narcotics police members restrained him and presented their police IDs," testified a Pakistani taxi driver who told the police that the 27-year-old American suspect had offered him hashish.

Prosecutors accused 27-year-old C.P. of possessing hashish for personal consumption and providing the taxi driver, A.J., with drugs.

"I am guilty of possessing drugs... but I am not guilty on the second charge [providing others with drugs]," argued C.P. when he defended himself before the Dubai Court of First Instance yesterday.

Prosecutors arraigned C.P. with possessing hashish weighing 2.85 grammes and two plastic pouches of hashish weighing 10.32 grammes for personal use. The defendant was additionally charged with possessing drugs with the intention of providing this to others.

## Disguised policemen

A.J. testified that the suspect handed him a piece of hashish while driving him to the Chinese market.

"I immediately contacted the police and they asked me to take him to an Eppco station near Al Bustan Shopping Centre. When we got out of the car, one of the disguised policemen immediately held C.P. and arrested him. The suspect defended himself because he was afraid and thought they were Taliban. While resisting arrest, the policemen said 'We are police'," A.J. told prosecutors.

An Emirati anti-narcotics police second lieutenant said that during the raid one of the policemen held the suspect's hand and shouted 'Police, don't move!'

"When I took out my ID, the suspect resisted arrest and assaulted some of us... then we restrained him with difficulty until a police captain showed him his ID. The defendant shouted loudly that they were not police. A.J. handed the hashish piece [which he took from C.P.] to the police," the second lieutenant said in his prosecution statement.

Prosecution records mentioned that the suspect admitted that he had smuggled the drugs from Afghanistan. Presiding Judge Hamad Abdul Latif Abdul Jawad will issue a verdict on January 24.

© Gulf News 2010