

# Suspects in Dh1.8b graft case will be denied bail requests

This will hold as long as lawyers insist on hearing witness statements

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Dubai: Bail requests for suspects involved in Dubai Islamic Bank's (DIB) Dh1.8 billion graft case will be rejected as long as their lawyers insist on hearing prosecution statements from witnesses.

"No bail requests will be reviewed or looked into as long as any of the defence lawyers insists on hearing statements of prosecution witnesses... let this be very clear," said the Dubai Court of First Instance's Presiding Judge Fahmi Mounir Fahmi yesterday.

Five out of seven suspects — three Britons, two Pakistanis, a Turk and an American, have been standing trial since 2008. The suspects are facing charges of embezzling public funds [DIB's money], deliberately helping others to embezzle public funds, inflicting intentional loss to the government and its interests, and unlawful profiting and forging documents and using them.

## Permission to speak

DIB's former financing department manager, 39-year-old Pakistani U.H. and his 50-year-old compatriot deputy, R.U., requested permission to speak in courtroom four.

The minute they started saying that they had been in detention for nearly 30 months and wanted to lodge bail requests, Presiding Judge Fahmi stopped them from talking and said: "No one will be allowed to talk about bail as long as any of the lawyers insists on hearing prosecution witnesses."

The defendants recently had their charges renewed by the Public Prosecution following another jury's orders.

U.H. and R.U. denied abusing their public service and deliberately helping four of the suspects to embezzle Dh1.8 billion.

The four suspects were three British businessmen, 48-year-old C.M., 54-year-old R.L. and 58-year-old A.F. and a 36-year-old Turk A.I., who remains at large.