

Two accused of kidnapping sculptor in Dubai

Pakistanis deny kidnapping a sculptor they met in a nightclub and locking her up in an apartment

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: Two Pakistanis have denied kidnapping a sculptor they met in a nightclub and locking her up in a flat where one of them allegedly raped her, heard a court yesterday.

Prosecutors accused one of the suspects, a 32-year-old clerk, of raping the 34-year-old Chinese sculptor in a flat where he and his compatriot, a 34-year-old crane operator, were charged of locking her up against her will.

"I did not rape or kidnap her... I am not guilty on that count," argued 32-year-old A.M. when he defended himself before the Dubai Court of First Instance.

Meanwhile 34-year-old A.A. told Presiding Judge Fahmi Mounir Fahmi: "We did not kidnap the woman. And we did not steal any of her belongings."

According to the arraignment sheet, prosecutors accused A.M. and A.A. of kidnap with deception of the sculptor after picking her from in front of a hotel claiming that they would drive her home.

They were also charged with stifling the woman, beating and coercing her before they stole her purse which contained a wristwatch, ring, golden chain, mobile phone and her passport and labour card.

The defendants were jointly charged with unlawfully detaining her in a flat and threatening to kill her if she reported the police.

A.M. was solely charged with raping the sculptor and possessing three bottles of alcohol.

The latter confessed to possessing alcohol for his personal use.

The Chinese woman testified that a Pakistani man offered her a drink in the nightclub where she was supposed to meet a friend and then kidnapped her.

"I shared with him a drink, but I refused to dance with him ... he agreed to drive me home," she testified.

Prosecution records quoted the girl claiming that her alleged abductors failed to contact her friends to pay them a ransom against her release.

She alleged in her statement that the person she met in the nightclub, who turned out to be A.M., raped her.

A Yemeni policeman testified that the defendants were arrested in a sting operation.

The trial continues.

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