

'I set my father's bedroom on fire'

K.A. was also charged with endangering his father's life by pouring gasoline on his head and threatening to set him afire

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: A 26-year-old Emirati man yesterday admitted setting his father's bedroom on fire, but denied accusations that he also attempted to harm his father.

"No, I didn't threaten to set my dad on fire. But yes I did set his bedroom on fire because I was really stressed and irritated... lately he has been very far from my mum. A fight erupted at home and I got really angered," the defendant identified only as K.A. said before the Dubai Court of First Instance.

Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Ali Rustom, Head of Family and Juveniles Prosecution, accused the suspect of deliberate arson.

He was also charged with intentionally causing damage to the bedroom and endangering the lives of those who lived in the house.

According to the charge sheet, K.A. was also charged with endangering his father's life by pouring gasoline on his head and threatening to set him afire.

"I burnt the bedroom intentionally and damaged it but I didn't endanger anyone's life.

"A problem took place at home and dad has not been treating mama well and he has been away. I heard lies and got really pissed off following the dispute, so I did what I did. Anyway, my dad has dropped the case against me," K.A. said before Presiding Judge Fahmi Mounir.

Leniency

The defendant also pleaded for leniency.

The 56-year-old father told prosecutors that the incident happened one day when he returned home at around 2am. "I spotted my son taking the refrigerator and air-conditioner from my bedroom. He claimed he wanted to take them and sell them.

"When I said that I will prevent him from doing so, he dragged me into the kitchen and poured gasoline over my head then he asked his wife to give him a lighter.

"She interfered and tried to calm him down [as] I ran out of the house."

The victim then allegedly sought the help of his son's friends who took him to his brother's house. He reported the incident to the police the following day.

Prosecution records showed that the defendant was enraged after he was summoned by the police and set his father's bedroom on fire.

The case is set for promulgation on October 20.

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