

Cassation court in Dubai orders retrial of murder case

Appeal verdict in the case of five Emirati teenagers overturned for technical reasons

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- Published: 00:00 November 30, 2010



Dubai: Dubai's highest court has ordered a retrial in the case of five Emirati teenagers who were convicted of fatally stabbing their compatriot teenager in Al Rashidiya.

The Dubai Cassation Court on Monday cancelled the appeal verdict and ordered a new panel of appeal judges to hold a fresh trial in the case.

The Appeal Court had earlier sentenced one of the defendants, 16-year-old H.M. to ten years in jail after he was convicted of premeditatedly killing the teenager, Ali Mohammad Hassan.

A 17-year-old Emirati student, A.M. was sentenced to five years in jail for his involvement in the premeditated murder. The stabbing incident, which happened in front of Hassan's house following a school scuffle, captured massive media and public interest.

The three Emirati students, aged between 14 and 15, were ordered to be placed in a special juvenile reformation and rehabilitation centre.

New hearing

Sources close to the case told *Gulf News* on Monday that the Cassation Court overturned the appeal judgment for technical reasons and ordered the retrial. A new hearing is expected to be scheduled before the Appeal Court soon.

Presiding Judge Omar Karmastagi of The Dubai Juveniles Court had earlier dismissed a civil compensation claim lodged by the victim's blood parents.

The Family and Juvenile Prosecution at Dubai Public Prosecution (DPP) had charged H.M. with stabbing Hassan 12 times, while 14-year-old S.H. was charged with encouraging H.M. to kill the victim. The two were jointly accused of assaulting Hassan's two relatives. A.M. and the two suspects, A.B. and A.A., both aged 15, were charged with aiding H.M. and S.H.

The Federal Penal Law No 9 of 1976 stipulates in article 10 of the Delinquent Juveniles and Homeless Law that a juvenile faces maximum ten years in jail for crimes; the maximum punishment of which is death or life imprisonment.

Assault victim

Prosecutors said A.B. encouraged the rest of the defendants to assault the victim's nephew and whoever shows up with him.

A.A. was said to have handed the knife to A.B., and H.M. and S.H. armed himself with a stick. Then they headed to the victim's house and committed the crime.

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