

# Customs inspector denies attempted rape charges

Prosecutors accused the suspect, A.T., of kidnapping the 28-year-old Malaysian woman, A.R., deceiving her and attempting to rape her at a hotel room in Deira.

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: A customs inspector has firmly rejected charges that he tricked a transit passenger into believing that she had won a complimentary night and lured her to a hotel room where he tried to rape her.

Prosecutors accused the suspect, A.T., of kidnapping the 28-year-old Malaysian woman, A.R., deceiving her and attempting to rape her at a hotel room in Deira.

"I am not guilty... that's untrue. I didn't kidnap her and never attempted to have sex with her," the suspect argued when he defended himself before the Dubai Court of First Instance yesterday.

The victim told prosecutors that the 20-year-old Emirati suspect, who wore his blue costume at the Dubai International Airport transit terminal, told her that transit passengers should not wait and deserved to stay one night for free at a hotel, with the compliments of the management.

According to the charge sheet, the suspect convinced the woman to go with him in a taxi to a hotel where he tried to rape her. Prosecution records said the woman managed to call the hotel's reception and ask for help, after A.T. tried to rape her.

An Indian receptionist testified that the woman called him from the room and asked him to save her from being raped.

An Emirati police sergeant, who questioned the suspect, said that he had admitted that he lured the girl to the hotel where she refused to have sex with him.

Prosecution witnesses will be heard when the trial reconvenes on March 4.