

Emirati singer denies rape of underage girl

Prosecutors said he raped her in his car

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: An Emirati singer yesterday denied in court the charge of having sex with an underage girl against her will in his car, near a public park.

Prosecutors accused the 21-year-old defendant, who according to records works as a policeman, of raping the Emirati girl, who is under 14, after picking her up from a salon in Al Twar area.

"I am not guilty... I didn't rape her," argued 21-year-old A.H. when he defended himself before the Dubai Court of First Instance.

According to the charge sheet, A.H. had sex with the girl against her will in his vehicle.

Prosecutors said he abused her adolescence and raped her in his car. Prosecution records said a Dubai Police forensic doctor testified that the girl lost her virginity long before the date of the alleged incident. The doctor testified that the girl's body did not have any bruises or injuries when she was checked.

Sources close to the case told *Gulf News* that A.H. is a second-rate popular singer and has a music group.

Statement

The girl claimed in her prosecution statement that the suspect raped her after picking her up from the salon where she was with her friend.

"My friend sent him a phone message and informed him that we were at the salon. When he arrived, he asked me to go out with him over the phone... but I refused. He threatened to drag me out of the salon against my will and said he would report the police if I refused to accompany him.

"He undressed and raped me... I couldn't fight him due to bodyweight differences. Following the incident, I stayed in my room for three consecutive days until I told the housemaid who informed my mother," the girl alleged to prosecutors.

The girl's mother told prosecutors that her daughter became acquainted with the friend and her sister during a relative's mourning ceremony.

"She stayed with the sisters at the relative's house...when she returned; she locked herself up in her bedroom for three days. The housemaid informed me what happened," the mother said.

Presiding Judge Fahmi Mounir adjourned the case until November 3 to hear prosecution witnesses' statements upon the defence lawyer's request.

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