

Iranian sailor gets four years for opium possession

Sailor sentenced to four years jail and deportation for using and possessing 23 grams of opium

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Sharjah: The Sharjah Sharia Court sentenced an Iranian sailor to four years in jail followed by deportation for possessing and using opium.

The court said M.N., the 29-year-old sailor who is not residing in the country will be deported after serving the jail term.

According to court papers that the sailor got arrested while he was on board an Iranian vessel where he worked.

A judicial official said Coast Guards and anti-narcotic police arrested M.N. while they were on their regular routine inspections of different vessels at the port.

Police said the during the coast guard and anti narcotic police inspection of the vessel where M.N. and eight other sailors were working, the police team found 23 grams of opium inside a small box and the box was hidden in the room of the sailors.

Police also found a similar box in the restaurant that contained traces of opium. Police said that M.N. who is not a resident of the UAE admitted that it was opium and that he had been using it for more than two years in Iran.

Police arrested the eight sailors.

M.N. told the general public prosecutor in Sharjah that the opium belonged to him and that he used it outside the UAE.

Forensic laboratory investigations proved that M.N. used opium.

M.N. denied the charges of using opium inside the country but he admitted that the seized opium on the vessel belonged to him only.

The public prosecutor charged M.N. with the possession of opium but the other seven sailors did not face any charges.

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