

Police officer tells court degree not forged

Denies manipulating document to get promoted

- By Bassam Za' za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: A ranking policeman denied, in court on Wednesday, the charge of forging a bachelor's degree from Damascus University with which he tried to get promoted in Dubai Police Traffic Department.

Prosecutors accused the 31-year-old Emirati suspect of forging a bachelor's degree in economics from Damascus University and using the forged document to have it attested by the UAE Ministry of Education.

"No... not at all. I didn't forge any document. I am not guilty," said J.A., when he defended himself before the Dubai Court of First Instance.

According to the chargesheet, prosecutors said the suspect forged a university degree and handed it to an employee at the human resources section of Dubai Police Traffic Department.

When the suspect [who is on bail] appeared before Presiding Judge Fahmi Mounir in courtroom four, he firmly denied all his charges and pleaded innocent.

His lawyer Abdul Karim Makki asked the judge to summon prosecution witnesses to hear their statements.

Verifying documents

An Emirati first lieutenant, who questioned the suspect, testified that the human resources section had informed him that J.A.'s degree was forged.

"We contacted Damascus University to verify the authenticity of the economics degree... meanwhile we summoned the defendant for questioning.

"He admitted that while working at the Traffic Department the door was opened for promotions.

"J.A. claimed that a sergeant [who later died] asked him why doesn't he pursue his undergraduate studies and obtain a university degree and get promoted.

"The suspect alleged that the sergeant [had] applied [on his behalf] to get enrolled in Damascus University.

"J.A. claimed that he paid the tuition [fee], while the sergeant attended the classes. After four years, he alleged, that the sergeant told him that the university would email him the degree... he also claimed that he copied the emailed-degree on a flash memory [card] shortly after the sergeant died," the first lieutenant claimed in his prosecution statement.

Prosecution records said that the human resources section discovered that the degree was forged, following which the suspect failed to get a promotion.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry informed the concerned authorities that the degree was forged and that J.A. was never enrolled in Damascus University.

The trial continues.

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