

Police officials probed over death of murder suspect

Murder suspect was in detention for only 15 minutes after extradition from Oman

- By Bassam Za' za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: Prosecutors are questioning eight police officials over the alleged beating of a suspect which allegedly led to his death, 15 minutes after he was placed in detention, Gulf News has learnt.

The incident happened more than 10 days ago. The Pakistani man, who was wanted for pre-meditated murder, was arrested in Oman, extradited and handed to Dubai Police. He died in a police station in Deira, a senior prosecutor told *Gulf News* yesterday.

Dubai Attorney-General's Technical Office at the Dubai Public Prosecution (DPP) and a chief prosecutor are handling the investigation, but the eight suspects have not been officially charged yet, said the senior prosecutor.

Gulf News tried to contact Essam Eisa Al Humaidan, Dubai's Attorney-General, but he was not available for comment.

Dubai Police Chief Lieutenant General Dahi Khalfan Tamim said the DPP are investigating the matter. The suspects remain temporarily suspended from the force pending the outcome of the investigation.

Lt Gen Dahi told *Gulf News*: "What really happened is that the Pakistani person had only been in detention for 15 minutes. According to eyewitnesses, he was seated on a chair when he suffered a health condition. There were civilian witnesses who have testified that the suspect was sitting on a chair when he took ill."

He said paramedic teams were summoned and an ambulance rushed him to hospital. He died later.

"It is untrue that he was beaten or tortured in the police station. He could have been beaten in the neighbouring country where he was arrested [he did not name the country] but that is unconfirmed and we don't want to blame anyone. Some police personnel are being questioned. Our staff is always responsible and in case the investigation uncovers negligence or accountability, then they will be forwarded to justice," Lt Gen Dahi told *Gulf News* yesterday.

"The investigation in this case continues. It's confidential ... we cannot reveal details," said an assistant chief prosecutor, who requested anonymity.

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