

Prisoner in Dubai used phone to threaten students

Prosecutors accuse prisoner with threatening to assault two individuals if they did not waive sodomy complaint against his brother

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Dubai: A prisoner has been charged with using a phone in police detention to threaten two men and coerce them to waive a sodomy case against his brother.

Prosecutors have accused 20-year-old H.S. [who does not carry personal identification documents] with threatening to assault two individuals and burn their houses if they did not waive their sodomy complaint against his brother.

Jail guards failed to bring the suspect from his detention and present him before the Dubai Court of First Instance where he was scheduled to be prosecuted on Tuesday.

According to the charge sheet, the defendant threatened to beat a 23-year-old Iranian student, A.E., and an Emirati student, A.Z., and set their houses on fire.

The Iranian student testified that H.S. phoned him from the detention centre and discussed the sodomy case with him.

"He ordered me to convince A.Z. to drop the sodomy complaint... He alleged that he would beat us and burn our houses if we didn't yield to his demands," claimed A.E. during prosecution questioning.

An Emirati first corporal claimed to prosecutors: "The student alleged that he received a 20-minute call around 10.55pm ... The surveillance camera footage exposed that H.S. and his brother walked into the telephone room and stayed for 20 minutes. We didn't know the content of the call for lack of [a] phone calls-recording device."

Presiding Judge Al Saeed Mohammad Barghout adjourned the case until October 3.