

Sharjah worker sentenced to death

Court hands capital punishment to man for labour accommodation murder

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Sharjah: A court in Sharjah has sentenced to death a worker found guilty of premeditatedly beating another man to death, said a judicial official.

The Sharjah Sharia Court of First Instance imposed the punishment on an Indian man who beat an unidentified man to death in labour accommodation in the Al Saja'a Industrial area in the Al Zubair rural district of Sharjah, located behind the cement factory. Police said the area houses large numbers of labourers from different emirates.

According to court papers S.S., 35, denied that he murdered the victim. S.S said that he didn't even know the man's identity. S.S appealed the death sentence and his case is now being reviewed by the Appeal Court in Sharjah.

He told police that a few days before the crime, five illegal and jobless Indian workers approached the labour accommodation where he [S.S.] is staying, asking to stay with him in return for cleaning the area every day.

S.S. told police and the public prosecutor that on the day of the crime the five men were sitting near his place consuming alcohol and that the men started cursing him. S.S. said he fought with them and pushed one of them to the ground.

S.S. said the victim's head hit the floor and he started bleeding. S.S. later informed police that the five men were robbers. He also told police that they owed him money and took his belongings.

S.S. informed the labour accommodation foreman and its owner, who reported the crime to police.

The lawyer for S.S. asked for leniency as S.S. was only defending himself. The lawyer told the court that the murder was not intentional, but the court refused the defence.

Definition of murder

According to the Maliki School of the Sharia Islamic Law of article No.1 of Civil Transaction Law, which is followed in the UAE, there is no crime here that can be described as "beating up to death".

The Maliki School defines murder as causing the death of any person, whether it is premeditated or deliberate murder or accidental or unintentional killing such as traffic accidents.

There is nothing here considered as beating to death. Murder is murder, even if the person was defending him or herself. The punishment of premeditated murder is Al Qisas (capital punishment), which is usually by firing squad. This can be reduced to one month to three years in jail if the killer is pardoned by the blood parents of the deceased.

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