

Suspects charged with attempted suicide

Trio were being detained for involvement in drug cases and allegedly threatened to burn down the detention centre

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Dubai: Three drug suspects have been charged with attempted suicide and threatening to set a police detention centre on fire if they were not taken to hospital.

Prosecutors accused the three Emirati suspects with attempted suicide and threatening to start a fire. They are currently held in Al Rashidiya Police Station's detention centre for alleged involvement in drug cases.

Jail wardens failed to bring the suspects, 26-year-old R.M. and A.A. and A.I., both are 25, from their detention and produce them before the Dubai Court of First Instance where they were scheduled to be prosecuted yesterday.

According to the arraignment sheet, prosecutors said they threatened police officers that they would set the detention centre on fire if they were not taken to hospital.

They were also charged with attempting suicide by slashing their wrists with razors.

Swift medical intervention helped save the lives of the suspects, according to prosecution records.

An Emirati police major testified that the duty officer informed him by phone that the suspects tried to kill themselves in the detention centre.

"The duty officer warned me that the suspects [being detained for their alleged involvements in drug cases] used razors to cut their wrists so that they would bleed to death," he said.

"They also threatened the wardens that they would set fire to the detention centre if they were not taken to hospital for treatment," the major said."

Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Hussain Al Hammadi has asked the court to implement the toughest punishment applicable [maximum seven years in jail for the threatening charge] against the suspects.

An Emirati police lieutenant claimed in his prosecution statement: "The major and I headed to the detention centre to check what happened. When we spoke to the suspects,

they told us that they had tried to kill themselves because they were not taken to hospital. They also threatened to burn the place."

Admission

A.A. admitted during police and prosecution questioning that he cut his wrist with a razor and threatened to burn the place.

Presiding Judge Al Saeed Mohammad Barghout adjourned the case until January 23 until the defendants are brought from detention.

Medical reports confirmed that R.M. and A.A. cut their left wrists and A.I. cut his right wrist.

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