

# Three men on death row for killing rival trader

Defendant says victim was harassing his family

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Sharjah: The Sharjah Sharia Court of First Instance has sentenced three men from among six Indian men to death for the brutal murder of a compatriot and for attempting to kill another in a villa in Al Sharqan, Sharjah.

Zakaria, Basheer and Anwar were sentenced to death for their direct participation in Kumil's murder.

They were also given a separate 10-year jail sentence for attempting to murder Kuzantil.

Basheer and Anwar will also be subjected to 80 lashes after they were found guilty of alcohol consumption.

A fourth man, identified as Kumar, was sentenced to 15 years in jail for masterminding the crime while Fakher Al Deen and Abdul Majeed were given five-year jail terms for aiding and abetting the crime.

The three will be deported after serving their sentences.

According to court records, the victim, identified as Kumil, died instantly when he was repeatedly clubbed and stabbed by the accused.

The second victim, identified as Kuzantil, managed to flee the crime scene. A passing motorist took him to Al Kuwait Hospital.

Police rushed to the villa where they found the lifeless Kumil lying on a pool of blood.

The conspirators were apprehended immediately after the crime was committed, court records say.

All admitted their participation in the crime, police said.

**Business rivalry**

Prosecutors told the court that Kumar offered to pay his conspirators Dh4,000 to get rid of the victim who was his business rival.

The victim was said to have been poaching customers away from Kumar, who was in the plastic bag business.

Prosecutors said Kumar gave a Dh2,000 downpayment to Zakaria, who in turn commissioned the other accused to whom he paid Dh200 each.

The victims were about to deliver plastic bags to a customer when they were attacked.

In his defence, Kumar denied ordering the victim's killing, saying he only asked his co-accused to break Kumil's leg.

He also told police that the victim used to work for him and left to establish a rival business.

Kumar also claimed that the victim used to call and harass his family over the phone and was provoking his workers.

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