

Transit passenger gets 10 years for drug smuggling

The Dubai Court of First Instance jailed the 36-year-old transit passenger for ten years and fined her Dh50,000 after she pleaded guilty.

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Dubai: A Filipina faces ten years in jail and a hefty fine after a court convicted her on Tuesday of possessing 4kg of cocaine, which she intended to smuggle to Ivory Coast.

The Dubai Court of First Instance jailed the 36-year-old transit passenger for ten years and fined her Dh50,000 after she pleaded guilty.

Prosecutors had charged 36-year-old M.S. with smuggling 14 plastic bags, which contained 4,072 grams of cocaine with the intention of smuggling them from Peru to Ivory Coast via Dubai.

"I am guilty... I smuggled the drugs but that was in transit. I want a swift judgment," the accused pleaded defending herself in court.

Presiding Judge Al Saeed Mohammad Barghout said pronouncing yesterday's judgment that M.S. will be deported after the completion of her term.

Confused and afraid

A Yemeni police corporal at Dubai International Airport testified that he suspected the Filipina when she arrived at the transit terminal.

"She seemed perplexed. I asked my female colleague to take her to the anti-narcotics office to search her. When we did so, she seemed confused and afraid. She told us that she carried two handbags. We took her to the luggage belt to collect her handbags," the corporal claimed to prosecutors.

An Emirati female first sergeant of the airport police testified: "We took the bags to the search room. We found inside one of them 10 cartons that contained the cocaine."

The corporal claimed that when he questioned M.S., she admitted that she smuggled the drugs from Peru. "She alleged that her friend asked her to meet a woman in Peru and collect from her \$500 [Dh1,839] to take the drugs to the woman's boyfriend. She claimed

that she collected the money from Western Union and then the woman asked her to smuggle the drugs to her boyfriend in Ivory Coast, via Dubai," claimed the corporal.

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