

Two get 25-year jail on drugs charge

Pair smuggled biscuits mixed with heroin into country to sell, Court of First Instance finds

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: Two Afghans will spend 25 years in jail after a court found them guilty of smuggling and trafficking biscuits mixed with heroin.

The Dubai Court of First Instance sentenced 34-year-old D.T. and 22-year-old A.A. to life imprisonment, a judgment which was unanimously agreed upon by the jury.

Pronouncing Judge Fahmi Mounir also sentenced their four compatriots to four years in jail each for consuming drugs.

The six Afghan convicts, who pleaded innocent, argued in court when they defended themselves that they did not know the biscuits they ate were mixed with drugs.

D.T. and A.A. denied the charges of smuggling and possessing nearly four kilogrammes of heroin for trading purposes.

Prosecutors accused D.T., A.A. and their four compatriots, 29-year-old M.R., 37-year-old M.N., 24-year-old M.O. and 31-year-old B.G., with consuming drugs.

D.T. and A.A. were solely charged with unlawfully bringing in and possessing three solid pieces of heroin weighing three kilogrammes and nearly a kilogramme of biscuits mixed with heroin for trafficking purposes.

When defending himself, D.T. said: "We didn't have any intention to sell the substances. An Afghan person threatened to harm us in case we failed to deliver the drugs to a resident in Dubai ... we did it against our will."

A.A. also denied the charge of trafficking drugs. The six rejected their drug consumption charge.

An Emirati anti-narcotics police captain testified that they monitored D.T. and A.A. after they were tipped off that the suspects were planning to sell smuggled heroin.

"We raided the flat where they stayed in Naif ... the six suspects were asleep when we stormed into the place. We found under D.T.'s bed a locked handbag in which the drugs were hidden," claimed the captain.

He stated that D.T. admitted smuggling the drugs from Afghanistan for trading purposes. Prosecution records quoted D.T. and A.A. admitting they smuggled the drugs to an unidentified person for \$5,000 (Dh18,400).

The primary judgment is still subject to appeal within 15 days.

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