Two journalists accused of false reporting

Judicial department says reporters tried to influence court verdicts

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Abu Dhabi: Two journalists in the capital have been accused of publishing incorrect reports regarding one of last week's court hearings, said a statement from the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD) on Sunday.

The journalists were charged with intent to influence the authorities in charge of issuing verdicts, the ADJD statement said.

The erroneous reports published by the journalists were about an ongoing case at the Abu Dhabi Criminal Court of First Instance, in which three defendants of Iranian origin have been charged with attempted fraud involving the UAE Central Bank.

The journalists reported last Tuesday that the defendants in the case had been acquitted, when in reality no verdict has yet been issued by the court and the case has been adjourned until November 22.

According to the ADJD official, the Public Prosecution is also in the process of summoning the editors-in-chief of the two newspapers, who are both currently outside the UAE.

"The UAE law ensures responsible freedom of the press and incorporates legislation to safeguard this freedom. But it also imposes regulations to ensure that there is no compromise of social values, infringement of people's rights and dignity and undue influence on judiciary authorities under the pretext of press freedom," the ADJD statement said.

The ADJD official stressed editorial responsibility when publishing media reports. "It is incumbent upon editors to ensure the accuracy of published reports, especially since honesty, integrity, impartiality and non-fabrication of facts are all journalistic responsibilities," the statement added.

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