

Two women deny bribing police

Claim they thought they were paying bail.

- By Bassam Za'za' , Senior Reporter
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Dubai: Two women have denied offering a Dh30,000 bribe to two police lieutenants to win release after their arrest for alleged involvement in prostitution.

Prosecutors accused the two women, a 36-year-old Uzbek sales agent and a 33-year-old Ukrainian saleswoman, with offering bribes to the police lieutenants to clear their criminal records and not have them deported after their arrest for alleged prostitution.

"No, I didn't offer anyone any bribe. This is a misunderstanding, I wasn't bribing him but thought I was paying for my bail," argued 33-year-old V.K. when she defended herself before the Dubai Court of First Instance.

N.M., 36, pleaded not guilty before Presiding Judge Al Saeed Mohammad Barghout.

Prosecutors charged V.K. and N.M. with offering a bribe to the Emirati lieutenants to refrain from doing their job, release them and not have them deported.

According to prosecution records, the suspects were arrested for alleged prostitution. Police detained them red-handed and they were about to be sent back home upon an administrative deportation.

V.K.'s lawyer Ali Abdullah Al Shamsi argued before Presiding Judge Barghout: "The law enforcement procedures were carried out unlawfully against my client... the alleged bribery crime could not have taken place in a detention centre.

Translation error

"That would have been impossible. It's a matter of mistranslation and misunderstanding. My client's intention was to pay for her bail and not bribe the lieutenant."

N.M.'s lawyer Saeed Al Ghailani argued: "My client also didn't have any bribery intentions... she meant to offer the money as a bail."

One of the lieutenants said the incident happened after the girls were brought to a police station.

"We were in the process of implementing the administrative deportation against the defendants. N.M. walked into my office and asked me in English to release her. I told her it was not part of my duty. So she involved herself in an intimate conversation to befriend me... she also offered to have sex with me against letting her go. When I stopped her, she claimed that I misunderstood her.

"Later she offered me Dh15,000. I said I needed to inform my colleague, who would be able to clear her criminal record in our system," the lieutenant claimed to prosecutors.

He alleged that V.K. also offered him Dh15,000 for the same purpose.

Prosecution records said the lieutenant informed his supervisor and they arranged a sting operation, during which the suspects were caught.

The trial continues.

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