

UAE resident helps police shut down illegal tattoo parlour

Four suspects arrested after police raid illegal tattoo and piercing parlour in Al Muraqqabat

- By Sara Janahi, Staff Reporter
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Dubai: Police arrested four suspects accused of operating an illegal tattoo and piercing parlour in Al Muraqqabat area.

A resident at the building where the operations took place complained to the police about suspicious activities occurring in an apartment next to his.

"The resident who is from an Arab country told us that the apartment next to his was frequented by groups of teenagers who were stopped at the door, asked a few questions and then later on are allowed in," Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Humaid Al Merri, Director of the Criminal Investigation Division of Dubai Police told *Gulf News* on Tuesday.

Wrapped in gauze

"The teenagers would leave with their arms wrapped in gauze. This behaviour raised the resident's suspicions because he suspected that the residents of the apartment next to him might be involved in drug-related crimes," he added.

The four Filipino suspects were arrested in mid-November, after an undercover policeman posed as a possible customer.

"The information received from the undercover source confirmed our suspicions that the residents at the apartment operated an illegal tattoo and piercing parlour. The source also informed us that the tools used for the trade were unhygienic which could contribute to the spread of infections and diseases. The source also confirmed that there were traces of blood around the apartment which could pose as another threat from diseases," said Al Merri.

The four suspects charged customers Dh500-1000 for tattooing and piercing, depending on the size of the tattoo or the location of the piercing.

"We found their tools of trade which were dirty and also albums which contained pictures of different images and symbols which the customers would choose. Operating this kind

of business may lead to a lot of damages especially that the suspects were offering their business to minors and using unhygienic methods," said Al Merri.

Public help praised

Police confiscated 14 drills that were used for piercing and tattooing and an undisclosed amount of tattoo ink.

Brigadier Khalil Ebrahim Al Mansouri, Director-General of the General Department for Criminal Investigation Department at Dubai Police expressed his gratitude to the public's cooperation in regards to solving the crime and urged for more cooperation between the public and the authorities.

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