

Visitor to UAE jailed 9 years, fined Dh20,000 over different drug charges

American visitor faces nine years in jail and Dh20,000 fine on different drug charges

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Dubai: An American visitor, who mistook anti-narcotics officers for Taliban members, faces nine years in jail after a court convicted him on different drugs charges.

The Dubai Court of First Instance on Monday sentenced the 27-year-old American to four years in jail for possessing hashish for personal consumption.

Presiding Judge Hamad Abdul Latif Abdul Jawad also jailed the accused, C.P., five years in jail and fined Dh20,000 for providing others with drugs

"He was petrified and resisted arrest when he muddled up between the anti-narcotics police team members [who wore Pakistani dress shalwar and kamiz] and Taliban members... he mistook their identities and screamed 'they are not from police' thinking they were from Taliban. Yet the anti-narcotics police members restrained him and presented their police IDs," testified a Pakistani taxi driver who warned the police that the C.P. offered him hashish.

According to yesterday's judgment, the accused will be deported following the completion of his punishment.

Prosecutors accused C.P. of possessing hashish for personal consumption and providing the taxi driver, A.J., with drugs.

"I am guilty for possessing drugs... but I am not guilty on the second charge [providing others with drugs]," argued C.P. when he defended himself in court.

According to the arraignment sheet, prosecutors charged C.P. with possessing a plastic piece of hashish weighing 2.85 grammes and two plastic pouches weighing 10.32 grammes of hashish for personal use.

The defendant was additionally charged with possessing drugs with the intention to provide it to others.

A.J. testified that the suspect handed him a piece of hashish while driving him to Chinese market.

"Immediately I contacted the police and they asked me to take him to an Epcos station near Al Bustan Shopping Centre. When we went out of the car, one of disguised policemen immediately circled his arms around C.P. and arrested him. The accused defended himself because he was afraid and thought they were from Taliban. While resisting arrest, the policemen cried 'we are police'," A.J. claimed to prosecutors.

An Emirati anti-narcotics police second lieutenant claimed that during the raid one of the policemen held C.P.'s hand and shouted 'police, don't move!'

"When I took out my ID, the defendant resisted arrest and assaulted us... then we restrained him and showed him our IDs. The defendant shouted loudly 'they are not police'. A.J. handed the hashish piece [which he took from C.P.] to the police," the second lieutenant stated.

Monday's judgment remains subject to appeal within 15 days.

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