

# Woman allegedly raped after being given lift

People urged to refrain from accepting rides from strangers to avoid putting themselves at risk.

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Abu Dhabi: A man who offered a woman a lift in his car raped her, the Abu Dhabi Criminal Court of First Instance heard yesterday.

The victim, H.H., who hails from Ethiopia, said she had initially refused to get into the car with the defendant, G.M., but had agreed when he approached her a second time.

According to H.H.'s statement, she was in the Corniche area on the day of the incident and had been waiting a long time for a taxi. When G.M. stopped his car and offered to give her a lift, she declined, and continued to wait.

H.H. said that after some more time had passed, G.M. drove by again and offered her a lift once more. This time, H.H. said she agreed and got into the car because she was tired from the long wait.

G.M. then drove H.H. to the Khalidiya area and stopped the car. He then jumped from the driving seat into the back of the car and raped H.H.

## Assault

H.H. said she was in such a bad state that she could not leave the vehicle after the incident. She said the defendant proceeded to call two of his friends, who dragged H.H. out of the car while hitting her face, back and stomach.

The defence lawyer argued that G.M. had not raped H.H., but that the act had been consensual on H.H.'s part.

Asked about the case, a criminal investigations officer said that people should refrain from accepting lifts from strangers to avoid putting themselves in dangerous situations.

The official said there have been cases in the past where people were forced to enter vehicles by culprits posing as police officers.