

# Ex-policeman jailed for sex with minor

By NOOR ZAHRA

A FORMER policeman broke down in tears in court as he was arrested after losing his appeal against a 12-month jail term for having sex with a minor.

The Bahraini, aged 29, was found guilty by the Lower Criminal Court of having sex with the 20-year-old Bahraini and sentenced to jail.

The legal age of consent for sex is 21.

He was released on a bail of BD100 after he lodged an appeal.

However, he was arrested and taken to Jaw prison to serve his sentence after the High Criminal Appeals Court reject-

ed his plea. The victim initially claimed to have been raped but the defendant was only charged with having sex with a minor as the medical examiner's report showed that she had not been sexually assaulted.

"The defendant was convicted of having sex with a minor and sentenced to 12 months behind bars due to the victim's testimony," read verdict documents.

"However, he was not charged with rape due to a lack of evidence. The victim had sex with the defendant with her consent."

The 20-year-old claimed that the defendant had raped her in a tent in Sakhir for five hours after she had agreed to meet him when he claimed that he was a "Good Samaritan" because "people" wanted to "hurt her".

"He phoned me and said that he wanted to meet me to inform me about a group of people who wanted to harm me," the victim said in her statement to prosecutors.

"He did not identify himself but I agreed to meet him because he said it was for my own good."

"He picked me up from my work place in a mall and took me to a tent in Sakhir."

She further claimed that the

defendant blackmailed her to have sex with him or he said he would file a case against her brother for using drugs.

"He told me that he was a policeman and that he would get me in trouble if I did not give evidence about my brother using drugs," she added.

"I told him I did not know if my brother was using drugs."

"He also said that he knew that my father had raped me when I was young and I that I had had sex with his friend when I was 12 years old."

"He then took me to a tent in Sakhir and had sex with me."

"I kept quiet because I was scared of him and he later took

me for dinner, and then to a hospital so I could take sick leave before dropping me off."

However, the defendant claimed that the victim was a prostitute. He said he had paid BD25 to have sex with her but she said she couldn't because she was having her periods.

"My friend had sex with her and told me that she was a prostitute," the defendant said.

"I then met her and gave her

BD25. However, after we ate at Jasmis she told me to drop her off because she was having her periods and that she would have sex with me some other time."

The defendant had earlier been convicted in similar cases and had to marry a woman he had sex with as a minor. However, he kicked her out of his house 11 months after their marriage in 2007.

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From left, BAE System's business development director Steve Wearden, Bahrain Polytechnic's deputy chief operating officer of academic services Hasan Almulla, Mr Martin, Dr Al Aseeri, British Council director Alan Rutt and other officials in front of the Spitfire

## Skills boost for engineers

BUDDING Bahraini engineers are being given a chance to learn key skills from young British experts as a five-day education programme got underway at Bahrain Polytechnic.

More than 600 students from 20 schools are taking part in a series of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) workshops organised by BAE Systems in co-operation with the polytechnic.

The workshops, supported by the Education Ministry, the British Council and British Embassy, also mark the 200th anniversary of Bahrain-UK co-operation.

"It has been inspiring to see the enthusiasm of the young Bahraini engineers, scientists and mathematicians of the future," said British Ambassador Simon Martin at the official launch of the programme.

"Education links between



Mr Ahuja demonstrating to students how the Spitfire works

our countries have long been a key element of the close relationship between Britain and Bahrain, and it is entirely fitting that this important event should form part of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of this relationship."

STEM is an inter-disciplinary educational curriculum focused on building the skills that drive innovation and fuel economic growth for the future

– vital subjects for a career in engineering.

BAE Systems' engineering graduates, Hannah Williams and Kush Ahuja, together with volunteers from the polytechnic, will be taking the high school students through a workshop on the Theory of Flight which they hope will encourage the students to take an interest in STEM subjects.

"BAE Systems' goal is to sup-

port and develop the skills of young people and the workshops reflect our commitment in realising this goal," said BAE Systems Bahrain vice-president and general manager Andrew Wilson.

A Spitfire fighter aircraft which was used by Allied forces during the Second World War is parked outside the hall where the workshops are being held. It will play a key role in discussing how aeroplanes operate.

"We are honoured to have partnered with BAE Systems for this event," said Bahrain Polytechnic's acting chief executive Mohamed Al Aseeri.

"At the polytechnic, we focus on practical learning more than the theoretical, and we develop our students to become work-ready immediately after they graduate by equipping them with the 21st century skills."

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