

9 foreigners face drug rap

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CHARGED: 8 Iranians and Uzbek accused of trafficking in methamphetamine

KUALA LUMPUR: EIGHT Iranian men and a woman from Uzbekistan, believed to be tourists and students here, were charged with separate cases of drug trafficking in a courtroom packed with their family and friends yesterday.

In the first case, Omid Torabi Ali, Kamal Salvikouvarim Yadollah, Hossein Gholami Ahmad and Davod Yaghoti were accused of trafficking in 53g of methamphetamine at a condominium in Mont Kiara about 9am on Aug 9.

The four also faced a second charge of trafficking in 134,074g of the same substance in the kitchen of the same unit.

In the second case, Kuralov Akbar, Shahin Daneshvar, Reza Jan Mohammadi Tootoonsar and Yurkinoy Tulkinova were accused of trafficking in 90g of methamphetamine at a house in Desa Park City on the same day.

The four and another, Mehdi Dadashi Havadaragh, were also charged with trafficking in 50kg of methamphetamine at the same time and place.

The nine accused were aged between 22 and 54.

After the charges were read to them in English, several of them claimed they did not understand the charges. Only the woman from Uzbekistan, Yurkinoy, said she understood the charges.

Deputy public prosecutor S. Malini Anne asked the court to fix another date so that an interpreter could be brought in to read the charges in their respective languages.

All accused were represented by lawyer Tania Scivetti.

Earlier, when the nine were brought into court, they waved and smiled at their friends and family in the public gallery. Some in the gallery even rushed to the front to kiss the hands of their friends in the dock before the court convened.

Magistrate Azmil Muntapha Abas fixed Oct 23 for mention.