

Civil Liberties

Miami judge dismisses human rights suit against Dubai bank

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By: John Pacenti

A federal human rights lawsuit filed in Miami by a Pakistani national against Dubai Islamic Bank has been dismissed.

Attorneys for Rafatul Islam Usmani Imitiaz Ahmed filed the lawsuit in July claiming torture and other human rights abuses against their client.

Usmani was entangled in a corruption probe and ended up in custody in the United Arab Emirates. The June 2 lawsuit called the detention a sham.

U.S. District Court Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga dismissed the case without prejudice Sept. 2 after Usmani's attorneys filed a voluntary dismissal motion.

The motion filed by Brant C. Hadaway, one of Usmani's three attorneys with **Diaz Reus & Targ** in Miami, said the bank and two other defendants had not been served and had not responded to the lawsuit.

Hadaway referred questions today to firm partner **Michael Diaz Jr.**, who was not available for comment.

Usmani, a 12-year employee of DIB who served as vice president of structured finance, was detained in May on suspicion of embezzlement. Diaz earlier said his client is an honest man whose banking services are wanted elsewhere.

The latest court papers did not indicate whether Usmani has been freed.

