

Charles Paul Goldstein:

“British Tourist, Paul Goldstein visited tourist hot-spot Dubai at the end of February, to convalesce after having his leg amputated, he has found himself being targeted and extorted by a car hire gang, for over 100,000 pounds. He has received death threats, harassment and made into a virtual prisoner in the Emirate, in desperate need of medical surgery, and unable to leave the country despite their being no warrant for his arrest and no court-judgement against him.”

Overview of Events

On 25th of February, Charles Goldstein, known as Paul to his friends, visited Dubai to convalesce after having his leg amputated and undergoing 20 surgeries following a horrific accident that left his friend a quadriplegic.

Paul and his girlfriend, Bonnie Rocher, hired an Audi Sports Car on the 05th of March 2015, the car delivered to them was non-functional, and parked immediately awaiting collection from the car-hire firm, Fast One Rent A Car.

On the 25th of March, when Paul went to return to his native UK, he was stopped at the airport, and informed he had an AED5,400 dirham fine to pay in relation to the car hire, and sent to the Al Barsha Police Station. Paul sought to pay the fine at the Police Station, but was informed he would have to pay the business owner of Fast One Rent A Car.

On arrival at Fast One Rent A Car, he met with the owner, an Emirati, Rashid Al Abdouli where he was told the figure was now AED400,000. A figure that would later rise to AED600,000.

Over the next 10 weeks, Paul would be subjected to death threats, intimidation and being caught in a legal black-hole, where a simple Police Complaint has sat in the Al Barsha Police Station as open, preventing Paul from closing the matter or proving his innocence.

Paul's medical and surgical requirements are far from complete, he was due for surgery on the 17th of May, to set pins holding his pelvis together, and without the correct surgery risks being incontinent, impotent and paralysed.

Paul, a British tourist, and not the first to fall-prey to 'Fast One Rent A Car' came to Dubai to relax after surgery but had his world turned upside down, and in danger of leaving him crippled for life.

'Charles Paul Goldstein' Statements

On His Condition:

“I’ve been here for 10 weeks. I’ve been separated from vital medicines. My leg has become infected. I can not only feel the pins in my pelvis moving, I can actually hear them at night-time. It’s terrifying. I was due for surgery on the 17th of May, with the same team that set my pins, realistically they are the only ones qualified to handle the surgery. I can’t get out of the country because I’ve been effectively legally black-holed to facilitate what appears to be an extortion.”

On Being Able to Walk Again:

“It sounds like a funny story, I was in France last year and my wheelchair was stolen. The elevator was broken, so I had to climb down several flights of stairs. I was told I wouldn’t walk again but in that moment, dragging myself down those stairs, I found a strength I didn’t know I had. I was told I’d never walk again, but from that moment I pushed myself and got out of the chair. I may lose that now and much more. It’s incomprehensible to me, the inhumanity of people that would use my injury to blackmail me. This is not what I imagined of Dubai, this cruelty in society.”

On the Vehicle:

“The first moment we turned the ignition, the dashboard lit-up with mass of lights, we had no idea what it was and what it meant. I can’t drive because of my leg. My girlfriend had never been in an R8, you think maybe this is some kind of high-performance indicators. We drove the car a couple of kilometers, at night on a weekend in Dubai Marina, that’s not high-speed, you’re lucky to make over 30 KMs an hour. We realised very quickly the car was not in any condition to drive let alone lease. We parked the car, called Fast One Rent A Car, and asked them to come and collect. There was no accident.”

On the Injustice:

“This isn’t a murder case. This isn’t even a crime. It’s a civil case that’s inherently based, from my position on a fraudulent claim. How does this investigation take 8-10 weeks? It’s a civil matter, if they wanted their money, if there was a real claim they would move it to the courts. But if they move it to the courts, I can defend it. By leaving it at the Police Station for this long, it’s a war of attrition, how long they can hold me here before my health collapses? It also asks the question, how are they managing to keep a civil claim out of the courts for this amount of time?”

On the Abuse of Power:

“This whole experience has been terrifying for every reason, not just my health but they isolate you, threaten you and the worst thing was, when I went to their offices, Fast One Rent A Car, as the original complaint was AED5400 to settle the matter and be done with it. The CEO started asking about my girlfriend, they wanted her passport copy. There were 14 of these guys surrounding me, so I handed it to him. He picked up his phone and rang

immigration, and he got an immigration officer to tell me what time she left, where she flew to and what plane she was on. That was scary but then he asked me to invite her to Dubai, and that he would have her picked up at the airport, then he would take her, rape and then murder her. He said this in-front of my driver, Jayesh. How do you respond to someone that has power like that, that can find out anything about someone with one phone call?

Points of Interest

- Simple case has been left open in the Al Barsha Police Station for 10 weeks. As an open investigation Paul cannot contest the case:
 - He cannot petition for information from the garage, Al Naboodah Garage, where the car was repaired
 - He cannot petition for the insurance status of the car to prove his innocence
 - He cannot petition the Roads Transport Authority to determine when the car returned to active use
- The damage to the car can only be described as catastrophic engine damage, yet there is no police report of any vehicular accident, or event involving the car while under Paul's car, and the car itself never left the JBR / Dubai Marina region where the average speed of a car would be hard pressed to be over 30KM on the weekend in the busy evening time.
- He has a de-facto travel ban against him for a civil case, not a criminal case
- He cannot pay the outstanding sum of AED5,400 that led to his detention, as the company, Fast One Rent A Car, is able to charge and contrive fees at its own will
- The terms and conditions of the car-rental contract themselves border on the absurd:
 - Committed to the tenant to pay rent a car while they are inside the garage or the agency in the case of booking the car with the police, whether booking traffic or on the pending case
 - Tenant shall carry insurance to pay the amount according to the document, as well as the value of a complete
 - The lessee shall pay 30% the value of the car in case of cancellation due to an accident if the car was damaged as emitter or bear full the value of confiscation of the car
- Fast One Rent A Car refused to provide the insurance details of the car, in order for Paul to check the status of the vehicle, as all rental car services in Dubai require mandatory insurance and Paul should not be liable for the claim.
 - It is illegal for a rental car to be issued without insurance, making the claim about the 'tenant's' responsibility within the contract, at best dubious and in actuality most likely illegal.

- Fast One Rent A Car provided Paul with a 'Parts Quotation' for a vehicle, citing this as expenditure to repair the Audi R8 (for damage not caused by Paul).
- Paul visited Al Naboodah Garage on Sheikh Zayed Road to verify the 'Parts Quotation'. During this visit Paul learnt more of the history of the Audi R8:
 - The car was inspected on the 15th of February 2015
 - The car was repaired in early March 2015, the repairs done to the car were not in relation to the 'Parts Quotation' provided to Paul
 - Paul cannot get a record of the work done on the car from Al Naboodah without a court order, a document he cannot petition for through the courts because there is no legal case against him

Police Case & the Courts

As of May 12th, 2015 there remains:

- No criminal case in Public Prosecution against Charles Paul Goldstein
- No civil case in the Dubai Courts against Charles Paul Goldstein
- No travel ban against Charles Paul Goldstein with UAE Immigration
- No arrest warrant for Charles Paul Goldstein with Dubai CID