

May 10 2010 | Last updated 5 minutes ago

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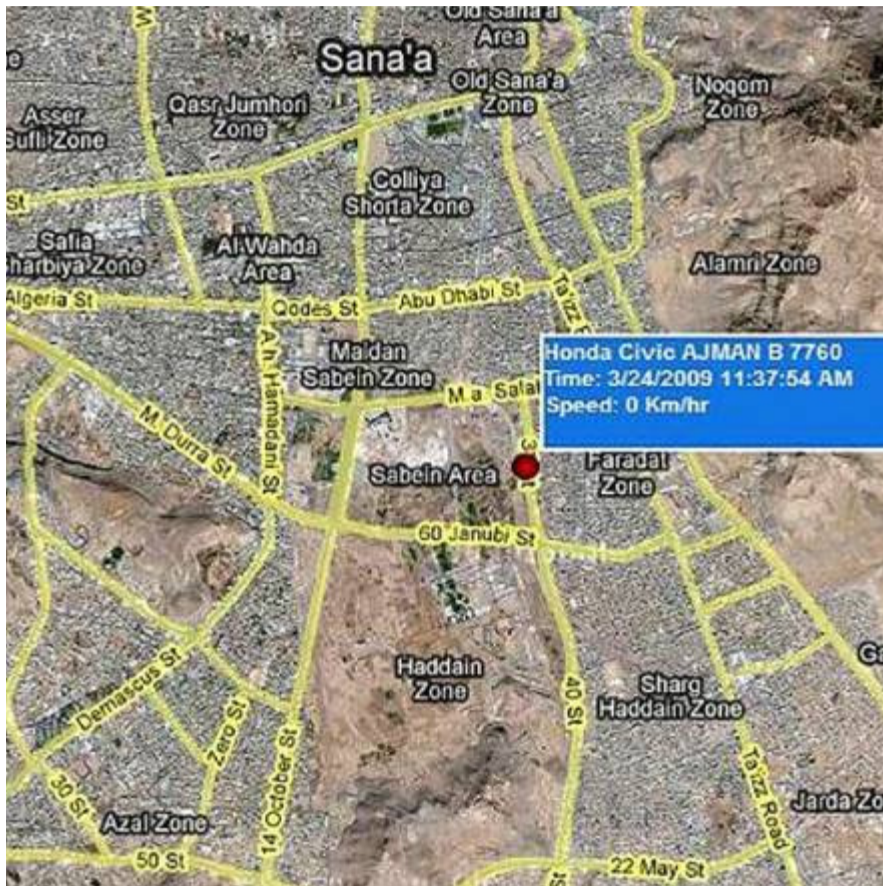
UAE | General

Vehicle thefts: Know where your car is

At least one car is feared stolen in Dubai everyday, said a local satellite-based tracking company.

By Mohammed N Al Khan, Staff Reporter

Published: 09:00 March 26, 2009



The red spot shows the location of an Ajman-registered car that was recently stolen and smuggled into Yemen.

Image Credit: Supplied

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“We have at least one or two cases of theft per day, and the incidents have increased in

the last six months," said Roy J. Nasrallah, General Manager of Geo and Logic GIS Solutions (G&L).

"Ninety per cent of the cars our company monitors are rentals, and they are predominantly the ones targeted (by car thieves)," said Nasrallah.

G&L installs GPS devices on their clients' vehicles which allow for real-time tracking anywhere in the world.

"We are really surprised to find that in many cases, where vehicles are smuggled to Oman, they seem to find off-road routes to bypass the border security, especially mountain passes in Kalba area and the Dubai-Hatta road. There are also many cases where the vehicles pass through the border checkpoint unimpeded," Nasrallah explained.

"I remember one case where I was on the phone with the client, telling him that his 'car is being stolen right now'. He just kept saying: 'No don't worry he is a friend of mine, I trust him.' I'm telling him he is trying to cross the border illegally. The client found his car in Yemen and was surprised to find that it had been registered to a new owner there."

Nasrallah said they have the locations of almost all the garages in Dubai and Sharjah on the system. "We receive an alarm when a car enters one. A client, after being informed, went to a garage and found that his car had been painted a different colour and the license plate had been changed."

The system also give an alert if the vehicle is moving while the ignition is off. "We have seen a number of cases where vehicles have left through the ports. One client traced his Range Rover all the way to Umm Qusair, Iraq."

G&L has a 24-hour call centre monitoring all alerts coming in.

"I'm proud to say that our system was built entirely in-house and is the first to be designed from the floor in the Arab world. This allows us to continually offer clients new unique services. We are also the only company in the country that uses Canadian-built devices."

G&L can remotely disable a vehicle upon the client's request.

Through a web interface, the client is able to log in and track his vehicles, finding out where they are now and everywhere they have been.

The client can also retrieve data of the vehicle like whether the car was speeding at any point and the distance it has travelled.

"We have cases where husbands want to track their wives, but we can only install it if the person whose name appears on the registration signs the documents. Many of our clients also want to keep track of their drivers and make sure that they are not speeding or going off on joy rides."

The system automatically sends SMS updates to the client when alerts occur. G&L's job goes only as far as keeping the client informed. It is up to the client to find ways to retrieve the vehicle. "Ironically, most of my clients are police officers and members of the Ministry of Interior," said Nasrallah.

GPS for you

G&L charges Dh1,900 for a GPS device, Dh100 for installation and Dh90 per month for subscription. Installation takes 30 to 40 minutes depending on the type of vehicle. G&L installs the tracker on site.

For more information go to www.geomama.com.

Your comments

Wow, that's a good service from G&L company! I really prefer to attach it to my vehicles. I will be coming to your web site for more information in future for this instrument.

Anonymous, UAE - Sharjah

Posted: March 29, 2009, 18:38
