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COMMENT EMAIL

**Philippines recalls envoy to Israel**

6/8/2005 2:00:00 PM GMT

**The Philippines recalled its ambassador to Israel on Wednesday after he compared the Israeli immigration police to the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police.**

In an interview with Israel's *Yediot Aharonot*, Ambassador Antonio Modena said that the tough treatment of foreign workers by Israeli immigration police was similar to that suffered by Jews at the hands of the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police.

He also described the treatment of Filipinos by the immigration police as "racist."

"Just like the Nazis treated the Jews the immigration police treat us," *Yediot Aharonot* quoted Madena as saying.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said in a statement that Modena was recalled to Manila for "regular consultations" after the publication of the envoy's comments last Friday.

"I have spoken with Ambassador Modena and he has made a preliminary report to me on the

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Alberto Romulo said that the envoy was recalled to Manila for "regular consultations"

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matter," Romulo said.

Gilbert Asuque, spokesman for the department of foreign affairs, stressed that Modena will return to his post soon.

Modena told the Philippines foreign ministry that he was expressing his concerns over the tough treatment of Filipino visitors by Israeli immigration personnel stationed at the Ben Gurion International Airport.

He added that he and other members of the diplomatic corps in Tel Aviv discussed the issue with Israeli Interior Minister Ophir Paz-Pines, and that he promised to ask the airport officials to improve their security procedures.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported on Monday that Modena issued a formal apology to the Israeli government.

"I issued the apology because I recognized the sensitivity on the use of the terms and that the [interview] has deflected the attention from the focus I wanted to make," he told the *Post*.

"In the heat of the moment, I may have gone overboard. I think an apology is the right thing to do."

At least 20,000 Filipinos work in Israel, many of them as caregivers.

Romulo stressed that helping Filipino workers abroad is a key foreign policy pillar "and the promotion of this policy is a major concern of the Philippine Embassy in Israel as more and more Filipinos seek employment in that country".

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**Reader's Comment**

excellant mr modena every god fearing country in the world should close their embassies and consulates in zion and kick sharons embassies out of their own country

Standard Comment (Click to Rate) alexander watson from scotland IP

**Reader's Comment**

i think it should be closed also and send these "detainees" back to their countrys and if they want to be sew we cide bom bers let them. we should have protected our own borders and not gone to iraq in the first place, like marc said , obl was in afghanistan , not iraq.

Standard Comment (Click to Rate) Lexi from Florida, USA IP

**Reader's Comment**

well i am glad to read this article since now those among us who legitimize the brutal force used by gevs on pallestinians can read themselves that it not the pallestinians its the state of mind these gevs live in where they consider themselves better then anyone else and consider themselves above the international law due to their history of holocaust. they are taking a free ride in this world for what the germans did to them and they are making the pallestinians pay for it. if they were such a democratic and open society why are they not concerned about the rights of these poor filipino workers ? let me tell you where there is a smoke there is fire and in case of israael i can even the burn

Standard Comment (Click to Rate) Fawad from USA IP

**Reader's Comment**

fawad, these filipinos are leaving their own country because they know they can build better lives in israel. israel has every right as a democratic nation to limit , just like the usa or any other country. have any of you read this? it does not say that israel abused the filipinos, it said the ambassador made a foolish comment and

his own country recalled him because they ized he made a foolish comment. to everyone harping on palestinians, the palestinians murder filipino workers when they attack israel. there have been filipinos murdered on buses and in rocket attacks. the guy apologized because he knows his statement was overboard. life may not be easy for filipinos working in israel, but apparently it is better than the philippines if they are migrating there.

Standard Comment (Click to Rate) Spiders from Mars 

**Reader's Comment**

it amazes me that so many people in positions of authority speak the "truth" and then are forced to apologize for speaking the truth. why should anyone have to apologize for speaking the truth? a , but then again we are talking about the zionist machine that uses lesser judah brothers as the smoke screen, while conducting their means to the end world domination by the jews who are not ly jews at all.

Standard Comment (Click to Rate) 20^20 from U.S. 

**Reader's Comment**

good comment spiders. these fillipinos are not held against their will in camps. they are not being tortured or put into gas chambers. they are working as maids and nannies like they do all over the world. they are being paid for their services just as they are in malaysia, suadi arabia, pakistan, hong kong where they are often abused and live near captive lives at the whim of their "employers". there are probably more protections in place in israel in the form of civil rights groups than in some of the countries i named above.

Standard Comment (Click to Rate) SAB from Canada 

**Reader's Comment**

instead of recalling the ambassador they should be giving him an award of the highest accolade, what the blazes is wrong with them

Good Comment (Click to Rate) pauline from uk 

**Reader's Comment**

israel his by definition the most racist country in the world ,they define themselves as the "gooish "state,and before the zionist sypathises state numbers regarding arabs already living there in the "gooish" state of israel.the arabs that live in israel are classed as third class citizens and do not have the same rights as a goos,why do we never see someone not of the gooish faith emigrating there like people do al the world in other countries,that is because you have to be of the "gooish" faith ,hence the words the "gooish"state of israel.maketradefair,make poverty history

Standard Comment (Click to Rate) MOneoliberal from UK 

**Reader's Comment**

the philippine ambassador antonio modena is no doubt aware that the jews have perfect right to protect their citizens from potential threats. because the philippines is a breeding ground for extremists, extra precaution is necessary when admitting filipinos into the country. the 20,000 filipinos who work there are free to decide whether the "rough treatment" is worth keeping their jobs there. perhaps they can find employment opportunities in the philippines. this is typical rhetoric from a slanted media attempting to paint the benevolent employer as the vicious, snarling pit in america, we have a saying that if you want a job, you gotta take the good with the bad. it is preposterous for anyone to assume that they can procure or keep a job without parameters or guidelines. the ball is now in the filipinos' court. what do you want? a job or no job?

Bad Comment (Click to Rate) Nat from USA 

**Reader's Comment**

mo, filipinos are emigrating to israel. people all over the world emigrate to israel who are not gooish. the only difference is that they have to go through a naturalization process and goos do not. the arabs in israel are not classed as third class, they enjoy the same rights but are underrepresented in parliament which means they receive less social services, but they have the right to not serve in the army, a right that no other israeli has. if israel is racist by definition, then what is iran? what about jordan, where goos cannot become citizens no matter what? mo, you never see anyone of nongooish origin emigrating to israel because you choose to ignore it, just like you chose to ignore this artical.

Bad Comment (Click to Rate)

Spiders from Mars 

**Reader's Comment**

this is just another wakeup call to israel, to help them take notice of themselves and change thier ways. some of them or thier policys, which are arrogant, bi ias and haiterfulness are what going to bring this nation to poverty and no good coming to it. may god let them cee themselves, then change and work for honest tr ue fairness and peace. peace to the world.

(Click to Rate)

Space People from Milky Way 

**Reader's Comment**

why is the philippino ambassador to israel complaining? the israelis are under the rule of law and t treat the philippinos humanely and openly. if he wants to complain go to the gcc countries and see what bad treatment of the philippinos is. or is this just another zero double standard? better yet, why doesn't the philippines improve their standard of living and keep their people at home?

Bad Comment (Click to Rate)

David from USA 

**Reader's Comment**

spider, we all know that anybody who dares to speak against israels is immediately labeled an anti semitic. the philippines, fearing this labelling, recalled its ambassador, who so faultly and foolishly stated that israel's policies are comparable to those of the nazis. can u please give me an incident in which a filipino is killed by a palestinian. if there has been, then he has been caught between the fire or as u would like ppl to think , it's bcuz the pals are diabolic blood vampire terrorists. the goos have used the excuse of persecution during the holocaust to justify their actions which is very very wrong to do. but then again, why should the pals pay the price for what the europeans did to them during the holocaust

(Click to Rate)

Samer from Lebanon 

**Reader's Comment**

samer, i cant remember exactly when, maybe eighteen months ago, a filipino was murdered in a very similar situation while at work in gaza. i dont think palestinians are diabolical bloodthirsty terrorists. i think that i.j. and hamas are. but i suppose that is a matter of opinion. the goos cant use their persecution to justify their actions, but they can use it to justify their need for a strong effective military and a need for security. i know that one leads to the other, but there is a distinction.

Bad Comment (Click to Rate)

Spiders from Mars 

**Reader's Comment**

a filipino woman of forty two, rosario reyes, was among fifteen people murdered in a sewerside bus bo.mbing bomb in haifa on december second 2001. filipino women of thirtyseven and fortytwo were killed in a bus bombing in northern israel on august fourth 2002, and a filipino worker was among the twenty three killed in the no2 bus bombing in jerusalem on august nineteenth 2003 .each of these attacks was carried out by hamas.

Good Comment (Click to Rate)

Spiders from Mars 

**Reader's Comment**

samer, the palestinians are paying the price for what they themselves did during the holocaust, under the tutelage and leadership of none other than arafat's uncle, the grand mufti of jerusalem. they were vocal allies and supporters of hitler this is well documented. they already have a homeland it's called "jordan."

(Click to Rate)

NonPCThinker from US 

**Reader's Comment**

i guess everyone has missed the fact that this man is being taken back to be given some proper re education about being a diplomat. israel is not being chastised here, the diplomat is. read a bit more closely.


Good Comment (Click to Rate)

Chuck from Canada 

**Reader's Comment**


only problem with filipinos is that they take jobs away from pals who love to work

for the jews but cant bec hamas brothers made every pals a potential time bomb. now every pals can go work in philipines

Good Comment (Click to Rate) chalabi from USA 


**Reader's Comment**

i have worked with the philippinos. overall they are hardworking, have initiative and are dedicated. they know their jobs and are willing to work hard. the money that the philippinos send back home is one of the reasons that the philippine nations survives. the philippine government takes more interest in their expats than the south asian countries. it is unfortunate that the philippine ambassador attacked israel instead of the worse countries around israel.

(Click to Rate) David from USA 


**Reader's Comment**

to all my countrymen, these is nobody's fault but ours. our freedom is not enough. we need to use freedom responsibly to create jobs for ourselves. we need to endure the pain and criticism of working away from home. we are failing miserably on generating a robust economy for our country. work, work work to get the riches of faraway land to help our country. and may we have the knowledge to elect better government to create better jobs for ourselves. we need earn that respect. work and work hard. peace with you all.

Good Comment (Click to Rate) tuna hunter from philippine seas 


**Reader's Comment**

israel is the most racist country in the world. arab ruling governments are like oil hoars of the united states, as long as they are kept fat and happy, and provide military b for us, they get to live as dictators and continue as fat and s that they are

(Click to Rate) Amir from USA 


**Reader's Comment**

ambassador modena is only voicing the very same concerns over treatment of nationals from other countries, which included france, thailand, nigeria and others. one does not just get on an airplane and fly to israel and look for a job. they are hired through hring services which are sometimes government owned, and criminals and such are weeded out in philippines. yet wehn they get to israel they are held back untl caucasions are processed but only they gt fingerprinted and dna'd etc. ambassador modena got favorable rplys from buisnes concerns, civil rights groups and even israeli professors. while amb. modena does regret nazi remarks, he stands behind his speech on poor treatment of foreign workers within israel. sorry if that rubs some of you israeli fans raw but israel is not a perfect non racially democracy. one should remember that the young professional people are trying to leave israel in droves, due to many factors and not just palestinian problem.

Good Comment (Click to Rate) M. Chattick Sr. from OLD United Sttte 


**Reader's Comment**

well done ambassador modena. no need to apologise to these racists people. because the thinking of they are the chosen people will always in their mind. they never forget because of thier racists and arrogance towards other human being, 6 million of them have been gass chambered by nazi. after winning a few wars with arabs they think they are invincible and arrogant.

Standard Comment (Click to Rate) matt from malaysia 

**Reader's Comment**

well well well, its nothing but the truth, all around the western world the masters fell like not being nice to the peoples of the other world. but little by little we the little fellows will all see that its we, the other worlds, that keep thier economies, we support this supposed first world

(Click to Rate) teseo from mexico 

**Reader's Comment**

to tuna hunter. your countrymen have already earned the respect of the objective people who work with the philippinos.

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