

Israel Recalls Envoy Found Naked, Drunk

Mon Mar 12, 2007 8:32 AM EDT

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel has recalled its ambassador to El Salvador after he was found naked, bound and drunk, according to Israeli media reports confirmed Monday by a government spokeswoman.

The longtime diplomat, Tsurriel Raphael, has been removed from his post and the Foreign Ministry has begun searching for a replacement, said ministry spokeswoman Zehavit Ben-Hillel.

Two weeks ago, El Salvador police found Raphael in the yard of his residence, tied up, gagged with a ball and drunk, Israeli media reported. He was wearing sex bondage equipment, the media said. After he was untied, Raphael told police he was the ambassador of Israel, the reports said.

Ben-Hillel said the reports were accurate and that Raphael has been recalled, although he did not break any laws.

"We're talking about behavior that is unbecoming of a diplomat," she said.

The ambassador did not file a police complaint in the incident, she said.

Raphael had served for six months as the ambassador in El Salvador and for several years at different missions around the world, she said.

The embarrassing affair was one of several involving Israeli diplomats in recent years. In 2000, Israel's ambassador to France died of cardiac arrest in a Paris hotel under circumstances the Foreign Ministry refused to publicize. Media reports said he was with a woman who was not his wife at the time.

Last year, Israel replaced its ambassador to Australia, Naftali Tamir, after he said Israel and Australia are "like sisters" because both are located in Asia and their peoples don't have the Asian characteristics of "yellow skin and slanted eyes."

In 2005, Israel canceled the appointment of a diplomat to Australia after it was discovered that he published pictures of nude Brazilian women on the Internet while on a mission in Brazil.

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Thus adding to the PR problem. As we say where I come from, Oy Vey.

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[Leah M](#)

???? that is SO WEIRD!

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I suppose it is better than a President who is a rapist.

[#4](#) - Mon Mar 12, 2007 11:16 AM EDT

REPLY 

[tetsuo60056](#)

I suppose it is better than a President who is a rapist.

Who would that be? No one US president...

[#4.1](#) - Mon Mar 12, 2007 12:47 PM EDT

[ChrisRonk](#)

My apologies...Aleged rapist.

And that would be Israeli President Moshe Katsav.

[#4.2](#) - Mon Mar 12, 2007 2:02 PM EDT

REPLY 

[winsomecowboy](#)

I cannot help but think someone's secret service has a flair for the dramatic.

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REPLY 

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WWMIS?

(What would Molly Ivins say>)

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[VSarkiss](#)

Pictures. A story like this just isn't the same without photos.

[#7](#) - Mon Mar 12, 2007 11:36 AM EDT

REPLY 

Oluseye Bassir

lol, so true

#7.1 - Mon Mar 12, 2007 2:01 PM EDT

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