Danes Hint At Arrest Of Israeli 'Torture' Envoy Carmi Gillon

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<http://www.rense.com/general12/grm.htm>

The Danish Justice Minister yesterday issued a thinly veiled threat to arrest Israel’s newly appointed Ambassador to Copenhagen on torture charges.

Carmi Gillon headed Israel,s Shin Bet domestic intelligence service between 1994 and 1996 and has admitted authorising the torture of prisoners, most of them Palestinians, during that period.

Torture of any kind was outlawed by Israel,s supreme court last year.

Frank Jensen, the Justice Minister, said in a parliamentary written answer to an extreme left-wing opposition party that Denmark was obliged by the United Nations convention on torture to take into custody anyone who could justifiably be suspected of complicity in torture who set foot on Danish soil.

His statement came after a row broke out when Mr Gillon told a Danish newspaper, soon after his appointment was announced, that Israel might return to the use of torture, which he described as "moderate physical pressure, in the fight against terrorism.

Ariel Sharon, Israel's Prime Minister, was recently forced to bypass Belgium on a European tour because he was in danger of being arrested under a local law for alleged war crimes committed in Lebanon in 1982.

But human rights groups, including many run by Palestinians, have pointed out that the prosecution of capital offences in areas under the control of Yassir Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, fall far below accepted international norms.

In addition, torture is commonplace in Palestinian jails, where confessions are often extracted from prisoners after prolonged beatings, sometimes meted out by the very men who were themselves the victims of Israeli torture only a few years ago.

Yesterday Shimon Peres, Israel,s Foreign Minister, stood by Mr Gillon,s appointment. "If Denmark acts according to this method it cannot allow in any member of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) who at one time was involved in terrorism, he said.

"Is it permitted to be involved in terror but forbidden to fight terror? Will they boycott all the members of the PLO? Will they boycott Iran and Iraq? Mr Peres asked.

Israel has been condemned for a policy of what the European Union recently called "extra-judicial executions " the killing of suspected terrorists.

Yesterday Israel killed Salah Darwaza, an alleged Hamas member and suspected master bomber, by shelling his car near Nablus. The army claimed that he had been behind "massive terrorist attacks in Israel.

Palestinian groups fighting either for an independent state, the destruction of Israel, or both, have faced little criticism from human rights groups for the killing of civilians, prompting Mr Peres to accuse the Danish of "double moral standards.