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# Haredi Man Convicted of Sexually Assaulting Minors in Jerusalem

Hezkiyahu Kahalani,

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incest assault,  
and was sent to  
prison again for  
three years in 2001  
after he sexually  
abused two minors.

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The Jerusalem District Court sentenced Hezkiyahu Kahalani, a convicted sex offender, to 10 years in prison Monday after he was found guilty of molesting three children between the ages of 10-12, two of them siblings.

In addition to the 10 years in prison, Kahalani was put on two additional years of probation and required to pay 30,000 NIS in damages to the children's families, 10 thousand NIS per family.



**Haredi protesters in Jerusalem.** Credit: Emil Salman

Kahalani, a member of the ultra-Orthodox Haredi community, allegedly molested the children over the course of two years between 2008 and 2009. Before molesting them, Kahalani

would allegedly  
gain the  
children's trust  
by giving them  
donkey rides and  
letting them pet  
kittens.

Once he was sure  
the children felt  
safe with him,  
Kahalani would  
lead them to an  
abandoned  
building in Mea  
Shearim, an  
ultra-Orthodox  
Jerusalem  
neighborhood,  
and allegedly  
molest them.

In Kahalani's  
verdict, Judges  
Tzvi Segal,  
Moshe Drori and  
Moshe Cohen  
wrote that the  
children who  
were victims  
"grew up in a  
religious  
environment, in

a conservative and closed society. They trusted the defendant and believed he was their friend, and he took advantage of their innocence and abused them behind closed doors."

Kahalani was imprisoned in 1992 after being convicted of indecent assault, and was sent to prison again for three years in 2001 after he sexually abused two minors.

"The case at hand is particularly severe. The defendant is dangerous, he has a criminal

background and he has shown no motivation or intent to rehabilitate himself," the judges wrote in Kahalani's sentence.

Kahalani's attorney, Hanan Rubenstein from the Public Defender's Office, claimed that the police and prison authorities were biased against him because of Kahalani's Haredi lifestyle and his opposition to Israel's secular government.



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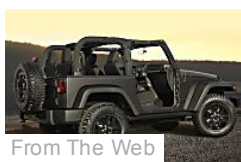
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