

# Melee Follows Arrest of Hasid on Sex Charge

By DAVID GONZALEZ  
Published: October 25, 1990








A melee erupted in Brooklyn's 90th Police Precinct Tuesday night when hundreds of Hasidic Jews surrounded the station house to protest the arrest of a Jewish man who, they said, had been falsely accused of fondling a teen-age girl.




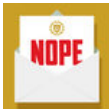




Three hundred demonstrators were involved in the pushing and shoving on a rainy night that left 32 police officers slightly injured. One Hasidic man was charged with assaulting an officer, a police spokesman said.

The incident was the latest in a long period of tensions between the Hasidic population and other residents in the area, which is in the shadow of the Williamsburg Bridge.

The Hasidim say they have been the target of anti-Semitic slurs and in some cases attacks by a few troublemakers. But other residents complain they have been harassed by the Hasidic community, which they contend is bent on forcing them out of the neighborhood. Elevator Encounter Reported

Tuesday's incident began when Eilaine Howe, 17 years old, told the police that she had been accosted by Chaim Ciment, 36, in the elevator of 541 Wythe Avenue in the Roberto Clemente Houses, a mixed-income subsidized housing development.

-  FACEBOOK
-  TWITTER
-  GOOGLE+
-  EMAIL
-  SHARE
-  PRINT
-  REPRINTS

MOST EMAILED	MOST VIEWED
	<p>1. FEATURE <a href="#">Fractured Lands: How the Arab World Came Apart</a></p>
	<p>2. EDUCATION LIFE <a href="#">How to Live Wisely</a></p>
	<p>3. <a href="#">Inside the Failing Mission to Tame Donald Trump's Tongue</a></p>
	<p>4. FRANK BRUNI <a href="#">To Get to Harvard, Go to Haiti?</a></p>
	<p>5. OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR <a href="#">Is God Transgender?</a></p>
	<p>6. <a href="#">Once Skeptical of Executive Power, Obama Has Come to Embrace It</a></p>
	<p>7. NICHOLAS KRISTOF <a href="#">Donald Trump Is Making America Meaner</a></p>
	<p>8. MAUREEN DOWD <a href="#">The Perfect G.O.P. Nominee</a></p>

"He pulled out a \$20 bill and said: 'This is for you. Don't worry everything will be O.K.," Ms. Howe said in an interview. She contended that Mr. Ciment had followed her and offered her money in the past.

Ms. Howe, who lives in a four-room apartment with her infant son, two brothers and her mother, said Mr. Ciment had jumped on her and fondled her before she managed to push him away and cry out for help. She said he left the elevator on the 11th floor and ran downstairs to the lobby, where she and an aunt caught up with him and had security guards detain him until the police arrived.

Mr. Ciment was taken to the police station, where he was charged with first-degree sexual abuse. He could not be reached for comment yesterday. [Woman's Account Disputed](#)

Isaac Abraham, who lives in the housing complex, which abuts the waterfront, said he went to the station house with several women who were in the lobby when the guards stopped Mr. Ciment. Mr. Abraham said they wanted to tell the police that Ms. Howe had previously started fights with other Hasidic Jews.

"This family has created a lot of panic in the complex," Mr. Abraham said of Ms. Howe and her family. "People stay out of the elevator and keep their kids out of the playground when they see her."

Mr. Abraham said a police officer in the station house had treated him rudely. By then, several hundred protesters had congregated outside, and the police got into a shoving match with them as they tried to clear the area. [Hitting by Police Reported](#)

"They were hitting Jews who just came to protest," reported Esther Gold, who said she had gone to the station house to tell the police that Ms. Howe was accusing Mr. Ciment without provocation.

Several women congregated in the broad courtyard outside Ms. Howe's building yesterday and defended her, saying she did not start trouble. Many were indignant at the Hasidic



9. [Why Some Life Insurance Premiums Are Skyrocketing](#)



10. [36 HOURS  
36 Hours in Minneapolis](#)

[Go to Complete List »](#)

[Show My Recommendations](#)



 **Crossword**

**First month free when  
you subscribe now.**

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

protesters.

"If they attack our police officers, they are saying they are above the law, so what can we expect?" said Elisa Torres, a tenant organizer who has tried to negotiate past conflicts with the Hasidic Jews.

She said tensions had been on the rise in the area for more than a decade.

Photo: Eilaine Howe, right, says she was sexually abused by a Hasidic man in a housing project in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. Hundreds of Hasidim protesting the man's arrest surrounded the 90th Precinct station house on Tuesday night. With Ms. Howe yesterday was her mother, Eilaine Herling. (Vic DeLucia/The New York Times)

 FACEBOOK  TWITTER  GOOGLE+  EMAIL  SHARE