

METRO

Brooklyn childmolester monster 'got away with it' after fleeing to Israel

June 3, 2012 | 4:00am

Here is Avrohom Mondrowitz, New York's most notorious child molester — living scot-free in Israel.

By [Oron Dan](#)

EVIL ON THE LOOSE: Avrohom Mondrowitz strolls in Jerusalem last month, scotfree after fleeing the United States in 1984 ahead of multiple childmolestation charges. Israel says he's protected from extradition.

Called the "Bin Laden of pedophiles" by one victim, the bogus rabbi and self-proclaimed psychologist fled the United States in 1984 just before cops broke into his Borough Park, Brooklyn, home with a search warrant. They found a cache of kiddie porn and lists of hundreds of names of local boys, most referred to Mondrowitz by Jewish families and childservice

agencies for counseling and his yeshiva-style program.

"He was known in the insular community as the go-to therapist, child mentor," said an outspoken victim, Mark Weiss, whose parents sent him to Mondrowitz at age 13. "He had a certain knack with kids."

Weiss says Mondrowitz treated him to restaurants and amusement parks, then took him into bed during a week's stay in his home. When Weiss, at age 18, finally told his parents and a rabbi about the sexual abuse, "They let it die. Any such story was quashed and buried."

But years later the NYPD finally caught up with Mondrowitz after getting anonymous complaints. He was indicted in 1985 on charges of sexual abuse and sodomy against four Italian-American boys, ages 11 to 16, who lived in the Brooklyn neighborhood.

Detectives also found many Orthodox Jewish boys who sobbed as they told of horrific sexual assaults by a man they trusted, but their families wouldn't let them press charges. Community pressure to keep shameful allegations secret continues to shield child molesters today, advocates and law-enforcement authorities say.

"He got away with it," said a spokesman for Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes.

The Post last week spotted Mondrowitz, 64, cloaked in religious garb, in Nachlaot, a hip, Greenwich Village-type neighborhood in central Jerusalem near his apartment on Yizreel Street. He wears a façade of piety and respectability, even leading prayer services at a local synagogue. But documents show he has indulged his penchant for child porn and continued

to seek contact with troubled kids.

Mondrowitz has paraded his fake degrees and credentials in Israel, seeking work as an educator and shrink.. In a 2006 document, first exposed by Jewish Week, Mondrowitz — who puts a Ph.D after his name — evaluated a 15-year-old boy, noting the “hormonal and physical changes in his body.” He discussed the boy’s sexual experimentation, including “pleasurable self-stimulation.”

“If you meet him, he sounds very knowledgeable, helpful and friendly,” said a neighbor who learned about Mondrowitz from an American friend. “Some people know about his past. I think some people brush it off , like he’s done his repentance.”

Mondrowitz “davens,” or prays, at the Munkatch synagogue. “He’s a regular there,” the neighbor said. “The rabbi was approached by one of my friends, but they weren’t going to do anything about him. He’s welcome to come.”

Another resident yelled, “All the allegations are lies! I know the person and his family very well. He is a good Jew. He is clean.”

Multiple e-mails copied from his computer and turned over to the FBI show that Mondrowitz trolled child-porn Web sites, buying access to titles such as ErectXboys, SchoolBoys, Boy Heaven and Boys Lagoon.

The United States sought his extradition from Israel in 1985. but the treaty between the countries did not cover his alleged crimes. In 1993, Hynes’ office dropped the deportation effort. In 2007, the treaty was changed, and Mondrowitz became extraditable. A search of his home in Israel found four child-porn films. He was arrested and jailed.

But in 2010, Israel’s Supreme Court ruled Mondrowitz was grandfathered and exempt from the revised treaty. He was freed for good.

Weiss, now 45, a married father of three in Highland Park, N.J, is one of dozens of Mondrowitz’s known Jewish victims, advocates say. He and others came forward too late to press charges because of the statute of limitations on sex-abuse claims. Some abused drugs and committed suicide to escape the pain, he said..

“It totally stinks to know that this guy has escaped justice and is entitled to live a stable life smack in the middle of a Jewish community that ought to know better. It’s a failure of an entire society that is paralyzed to take action action, Weiss said.

“I believe he will one day answer to his maker — and that time is coming.”

ABC News

Child Sex Abuse Case Still Haunts

Oct. 11, 2006

By ROXANNA SHERWOOD via

Retired New York Police Department Det. Pat Kehoe still remembers a phone call she got more than 20 years ago, from a person making allegations that a rabbi was sexually abusing children in his neighborhood.

"I never received a call like that in my whole career in the New York City Police Department. Never," Kehoe told Cynthia McFadden in a recent interview.

"I'll never forget it because unfortunately it was my birthday, November 21 1984. I was working in

the Brooklyn Sex Crimes squad and I received an anonymous call from a male who started to say that there was a rabbi and gave the name and he was abusing people on this block," she said.

Rabbi Avrohom Mondrowitz, as he called himself, lived on a treelined block in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn. Kehoe and her partner, Sal Catafulmo, went out to the neighborhood where Italians and Hasidic Jews lived sidebyside.

At one of the first addresses they tried, she says a resident told her "Everyone knows Rabbi

Mondrowitz. He's good to all our children. He buys them bicycles and takes them away on weekends and things."

That might sound like a recommendation, but not to Kehoe.

"With that information I got very scared," she said.

Kehoe's background in an NYPD pedophilia squad taught her to recognize the signs of pedophilia.

"Pedophiles have a pattern with children to get their confidence and send their so-called love, you

might say, and buy them things," she said.

What she heard from the children themselves only confirmed her gut feelings.

"We brought them in without their parents," Kehoe said. "They started to tell us, 'The rabbi is our

friend. He takes us away,' and things like that. As the questions became more difficult for the children '

Did anything ever happen? Did anything sexual ever happen? Are you aware of it happening to anyone else while you were there?' they all broke down and cried, each one separately."

According to Kehoe, the children painted a clear picture of abuse. Kehoe says the children told her

that the rabbi had fondled them, had sexual relations with them, and that he had fondled others in front of them.

Apparently the selfproclaimed rabbi Mondrowitz

had no formal rabbinical credentials was

counseling young Orthodox boys in the basement office of his home in Borough Park.

Kehoe and her partner immediately obtained a search warrant for his home. When they got to the

address, there was no answer at the door, so Kehoe climbed through the basement window.

The alleged pedophile and his family had fled and his house was completely vacant but for what

Kehoe says were up to a hundred files of Orthodox boys that Mondrowitz had been counseling in his basement office.

Kehoe and her partner reached out to all of the Orthodox boys' families, she says, but no one would talk.

"They were members of the Hassidic community, and as we found out through the investigation at the time I wasn't completely aware of all the different rules in the Hassidic community. And one

of the things is that if one of them is ever sexually abused, whether it be by a pedophile or raped, there's a very large stigma that prevents them from getting married and going forward with their lives if this is ever found out or brought to anyone's attention," she said.

The only victims that cooperated with the investigation were Italian. They were neighborhood boys

who trusted the rabbi because he bought them gifts like bicycles. Not a single Orthodox Jewish boy or their parents would talk to the police.

The statements of four Italian boys, aged 11 through 16, were the basis for the indictment against

Avrohom Mondrowitz. He was facing eight counts of sexual abuse in the first degree, endangering the welfare of a child, and five counts of sodomy in the first degree.

The allegations against Mondrowitz were shocking to those who knew him. Rabbi Herbert Bomzer

has been a fixture among ultraOrthodox rabbis in Brooklyn for more than 50 years. He is president

of the Flatbush Rabbinical Board, composed of nearly 100 rabbis. He hired Mondrowitz to counsel

boys at a school for Orthodox boys in the late 1970s.

"He was very effective, so much so that toward the end of the school year when they were

planning the graduation exercise the student reps requested that I should invite him to be the guest

speaker at the exercise," Bomzer said.

Young boys were equally impressed with the charismatic older man. Mark Weiss was one of them.

At 13 years old, growing up in Chicago, Weiss says he was having trouble fitting in and reconciling

his orthodoxy with the outside world. In the summer of 1980, his father sent Weiss to

New York to receive counseling from Mondrowitz. "He had kind of a sporty little car, and he had this really cool sound system in there. And right off the bat I remember being just completely overwhelmed with just like how cool this guy is," Weiss said. "He took me out to eat. He took me out to lunch, to dinner. He took me to an amusement park. He took me sightseeing here." Weiss trusted the man so much that with his family away on a trip to the mountains, he didn't hesitate when Mondrowitz invited him to sleep in his own bed with him, telling him, Weiss says, that it might be more comfortable there than in another bedroom in the front of the house. What Weiss says happened in the rabbi's bedroom is something that even to this day makes him uncomfortable to talk about, but he knows how important it is to tell his story, not only for the sake of raising consciousness but for his own healing. He says that over the course of the week he spent with Mondrowitz, the older man sodomized him on multiple occasions. Weiss says he tucked the experience away in the deepest recesses of his mind and did not think of it again, that is, until five years later, in 1984, when as an 18-year-old, he was celebrating the holidays in Chicago where he says Mondrowitz was also visiting family. "I look across the room, and across the room I see Remel Mondrowitz," Weiss said. "It just hit me like a ton of bricks what had happened and I froze. And I just sort of went into a state of shock." Everything came back to him, he said.

"I realized that I was sexually molested when I was thirteen years old," he said. Weiss immediately turned to his parents for guidance. He first told his mother. "She was just completely incredulous. She couldn't accept what I was telling her," Weiss said. "What I was telling her was essentially shaking the entire infrastructure to its foundation, really, because it was more than just me being molested. It was just the unraveling of the entire foundation of her support system and of her religious infrastructure." His father was also devastated and confused after all, this was a man he respected and knew. Weiss said his father told him Mondrowitz was a frum man a

religious Jew.

His father's belief that this is perhaps an experience better kept quiet is a view, Weiss said, his

father still maintains today.

"Just a few short days ago, my father was in a panic that this was just going to turn into a huge

Chillul Hashem, which is a disgrace of God's name," Weiss said. "A bad image would be cast upon

Judaism and orthodox Judaism and the Jewish people."

Now a 39-year-old

husband and father of three sons, Weiss said he has carried his painful

memory of abuse silently for years. About five years ago, when he and his family were living in

Denver, he saw an announcement in a Jewish publication for an event for survivors of sexual

molestation.

He was ecstatic at the prospect that his community was finally prepared to confront this problem,

so he immediately booked a flight to New York.

"It was going to be this night in which survivors were to be able to meet with leaders of the Jewish

community and they were to be able to address and to tell their stories essentially and to be heard

for the first time, really, in a public forum in the right wing religious community," he said.

But the event did not unfold as he had imagined or hoped it would.

"It was very clear, unfortunately, that the rabbis who were there and the leaders of our community

didn't really have an understanding of what it was they were there to do," he said.

"None of the survivors got to say a word. Any questions that were to be asked were written down

on these little index cards and they sort of cherry-picked the most benign questions and

subsequent comments that were followed up by the rabbis really had nothing to do with actual

sexual molestation whatsoever," he said.

When the evening was over, Weiss said he was devastated.

"Anybody who was really a victim and really had gone through some horrible experiences was

really shellshocked.

We sort of all walked around like we had just survived a plane crash."

A Fall 2000 ad in the Jewish Image published an announcement for one such event,

"Let's talk

about what never happened..." and in small letters underneath "...but it did." Another ad that ran in a

2001 Jewish Observer advertising one such event bears in its heading a clear message of silence:

"SHHH..."

"Because of the unwillingness to expose it, pedophiles can operate pretty safely in the orthodox

community?" McFadden asked Mark Weiss. "It's fertile ground. It's fertile ground,"

Weiss readily replied.

"I've met victims and survivors who have been told by their rabbis they shouldn't say anything

because this is what we call Lashone Harah," explained Rabbi Mark Dratch, an officer of the

Rabbinical Council of America and head of JSafe, an organization to help Orthodox Jewish victims

of domestic violence and sex abuse.

The biblical concept of Lashone Harah is "gossip or slander, a biblical prohibition against maligning

another person, against speaking ill of another person," and holds even when the allegations being

made are proven true, Dratch said.

There's another biblical concept at play when dealing with sex abuse and domestic violence in the

community, he said.

"It's called Mesira. And that's a prohibition on the books of reporting fellow Jews to the authorities

under any circumstances," Dratch said.

The mesira edict was published in a Yiddish language

Orthodox Brooklyn newspaper called Der

Blatt in the wake of a case of a 6-year-old

Orthodox Jewish boy who had brought allegations

against a rabbi who had been tutoring him. The case was brought before the Brooklyn district

attorney, who ultimately disbanded the grand jury on the case.

Sociologist Amy Neustein, an Orthodox Jewish woman who studies sex abuse in the community

and who says she has spoken to members of the victim's family, said the Hebrew publication that

ran under the title "Severe Warning and Prohibition" drove the child's family out of town.

"Rabbis sign on to this edict about Mesira stating that he who informs to the Christian authorities

can be murdered at the first opportunity," Neustein said. "Well of course that sends such a chill to

the family that they pick themselves up with their children, from Brooklyn and they ran

out of the
county."

"Victims are very hesitant to come forward," Dratch said. "Number one is the denial of the
community. So there is a fear that they are not going to be believed.

"Secondly, it's I'll

use a wonderful Yiddish word it's

called Shanda, the shame of it all. And

individuals are afraid of what the impact of their report will be on themselves
personally and on their

family and on the extended family," he said.

"The shame is that Mondrowitz didn't get arrested. To me that was the shame," Kehoe
said.

Mondrowitz, now 58 years old, has been living comfortably in Israel since 1985, and
the retired

NYPD detective said she believes he has been amassing new victims.

"Hundreds, I'm sure. He's been in Israel almost 20 years," Kehoe said. "It's a sickness.
It's

something that you have to do every time when you find a new victim."

In the wake of recent allegations against another Brooklyn Orthodox rabbi, several
Orthodox

Jewish men alleging that they too were sexually abused by Mondrowitz have come
forward to tell

of the abuse that they say has haunted them.

Michael Lesher, an attorney who represents six alleged victims of Mondrowitz,
including Mark

Weiss, said it is similar to what has happened with the Catholic Church.

"The comparisons are obvious, but I would say at the same time that what we are
seeing in the

Jewish community is in some respects worse because it's more institutionalized," he
said.

Rabbi Mark Dratch agrees.

"As an outsider to the Catholic Church, it seems to me that there is an infrastructure or
a hierarchy

and they have the mechanism, they really do have the mechanism to effect systemic
change in a

much easier way in a much more efficient way and a much quicker way because of
that

hierarchy," Dratch said. "In the Orthodox world, we don't have such a hierarchy. There
is no pope

and there are no levels of responsibility and answerability."

Dratch said there is no way to really gauge how widespread the problem is in the
community,

"because of this conspiracy of silence."

All parties involved with this story wanted to make sure that one thing was absolutely clear that there is sex abuse against children in every community. They would like to see changes in the way some rabbinical leaders handle the allegations when they surface.

"The biggest thing that I worry about really is that I represent the story well and not precast it off in way that this just looks like a besmirch of a black eye and a besmirching of the Orthodox Jewish world," Weiss said. "But the truth is, is that it is a black eye to everybody. This problem knows no borders and no boundaries."

"The community senses there is a crisis here and that something very serious needs to be done," Dratch said.

ABC News easily found Mondrowitz living in a quiet Jerusalem neighborhood, his name prominently displayed on a mailbox. He even lectures at the Jerusalem College of Engineering.

He politely declined to be interviewed for the story, and thanked us for the opportunity.

"Mondrowitz proved to be brilliant at working the system," Leshner said. "He understands this Orthodox culture, if possible, better than we do. He understands just what it will do and just what it won't do, what he can get away with and when he has to run. He's manipulated it masterfully and that is really a shameful commentary on the community. That a man like this understands it so well and has been able to turn it so well to his advantage all these years."

"And I was told when I embarked on this crusade to examine, explore sex abuse in the Orthodox Jewish community that Mondrowitz was the key, what he was able to do and how he comported himself and how the community so adroitly managed to cover up for what he did and to keep things quiet as he was out of the country. Just to keep the victims suppressed. To keep their voices silenced," Amy Neustein said.

Though some members of the Orthodox community told ABC News this is a very old case and very old charges with very deep wounds and that it would be better to just let it go now, but Leshner told a different story.

"That's not what my clients believe and they're the victims carrying the wounds," he

said. "That's not what I believe and I belong to the community they do." Leshner, who plans to push the Brooklyn district attorney to try to extradite Mondrowitz. "This man is not an ancient man. He's only 58 years old now. He was 37 when he fled the country. These victims are not ancient people. These are people in their late 30s and early 40s. They are seething, still seething with what was done to them," Leshner said. "And as one of them put it to me, every day that Mondrowitz can live openly in Israel knowing that he's safe from prosecution because nobody cares, is another day that they are victimized all over again." The question of whether Mondrowitz could be extradited to stand trial in the United States is unclear. When Mondrowitz fled, then Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman made swift moves to have the alleged pedophile extradited, but under Israeli law at the time, sodomy against boys was not recognized as an extraditable offense, so she was unsuccessful. Israeli law has since been changed. The current Brooklyn District Attorney, Charles Hynes, is not trying to extradite at this time. Weiss said he believes that speaking about the issue of sex abuse is the only answer. "Throwing it under the rug will do no good. You need to just come out and say it and you know what, we are better people for it," he said. "Nobody's going to look down upon the Orthodox Jewish community negatively because we're talking about this. They are going to come to admire us for being straight about it and admitting we have a problem and we're going to solve it.

6/8/2015 Mondrowitz – Three Ways To Get Him | Dov Ivry | The Blogs | The Times of Israel

This post has been contributed by a third party. The opinions, facts and any media content here are presented solely by the author, and The Times of Israel assumes no responsibility for them. In case of abuse, [report this post](#).

Mondrowitz – Three Ways To Get Him

DOV IVRY JULY 30, 2012, 10:21 PM

T

here are not a few reported monsters in the world: the Sasquatch in northwest North

America and the Loch Ness in Scotland are two.

No one has ever laid a hand on them so no one can vouch that they really exist.

There is a monster in Jerusalem as well. No one has ever laid a hand on him either. But this one is

definitely real. His name is Avroham Mondrowitz.

Mondowitz is a paedophile who molested up to 300 boys in Brooklyn in a mainly ultraOrthodox

section of the city — we'll never know the real number of victims — and then skipped out to Israel

in 1985 where he twice fended off efforts to send him back to face justice. Mondowitz, who presents himself as an ordained rabbi and Columbiatrained

psychologist, and is neither, lives free

as a bird in the neighborhood of Nachlaot in central Jerusalem.

The US twice sought his extradition from Israel, in 1986 and again in 2008. The first time the two

states discovered incredibly that their extradition treaty covered only sexual abuse crimes against

females and not males. The second time they worked with a revised treaty. A lower court ruled for

the extradition. The Supreme Court nixed that saying that Israel had 20 years to get this guy hiding

in plain sight and to come along after such an extraordinary period of time violates his civil rights.

You can't make this stuff up.

He may gone off the radar in Israel but they have not forgotten Mondrowitz in New York. Just last

month the Post ran still another article on how the man they call "New York's most notorious child

molester ... got away with it."

Mondrowitz's victims are now in court seeking to view documents which will shed light on their belief that the Brooklyn district attorney Charles J. Hynes, now 77, an elected official, was responsible for the fatal delay in not seeking Mondrowitz's extradition and he did so in order to curry political favor with ultraOrthodox

religious leaders who did not want to see him back in

Brooklyn. Hynes began meeting with these leaders after taking office in 1989

Ultraorthodox

rabbis are renown for spending their entire lives memorizing a multitude of precepts produced by a multitude of sages down their ages and then applying them to every situation in

their waking lives so that every minute of every day they will always be doing the right thing.

But

when it comes to paedophiles in their community somewhere along the line they reached outside

the box for their guiding precept. They adopted it from Mizaru, Kikazaru, and Iwazaru. These

are

Japanese monkeys. Their names mean see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. In an amazing triumph for the ecumenical movement it turns out that Catholic prelates adopted the exact same

precept in regard to paedophiles among the ministers of their faith. Some like the Monsignor William Lynn of Philadelphia, who got up to six years for “child endangerment,” are now in prison.

The judge convicted him of shielding, protecting and aiding “monsters in clerical garb.”

Mondrowitz

got help along the way too up to and including illegal acts of obstruction of justice but we’ll never

learn from whom. The Catholics operate in a strict hierarchical system. There but for the grace of

decentralization go our child endangerers.

Mondrowitz who presented himself to the community as a rabbi and as a psychologist and no one

in Brooklyn questioned his credentials received boys from ages 8 to 15 with psychological difficulties. Referrals came from all over the community and also from social services. He had

a

popular callin

radio program and even the “king of Jewish music” Mordechai Ben David appeared

on it. Haredi music as it is known is the equivalent to gospel in the general culture. The tape still

exists. That MBD would share a microphone with him gives you a measure of the prestige Mondrowitz enjoyed at that time.

He used the boys sent to him as sex toys, In ultraOrthodox

culture members of the flock are

expected to choose a rabbi. When they need guidance in any matter not excluding their personal

lives, they seek it from their rabbi. What he tells them is binding. From empirical evidence it appears that all the rabbis on the subject of paedophilia imposed “omerta,” an Italian word meaning

a code of silence. No one reported Mondrowitz to the authorities. Then he got careless. He lived in

a mixed neighborhood. Mondrowitz developed an appetite for boys of Italian extraction. Their folks

were not bound to any omerta. Parents of four boys went to the police. Two cops came round to

arrest Mondrowitz. They were too late. He was already en route to Canada and from there headed

to the Promised Land.

The daily tabloids here had a field day, splashing his face all over their front pages with breathless

stories of how a nefarious serial child molester had dropped down into Jerusalem. You read that

and you concluded that the sun won’t set twice before this guy is out of here. Nothing happened.

First there was that technicality that the extradition treaty was not applicable to Mondrowitz and

secondly at about the same time erupted one of the bizzarrest political controversies ever in a country where bizarre political controversies are a routine occurrence. The French asked for the extradition of one William Nakash, a Jew from Paris then in his early 20s, for killing an Arab. A large segment of the population arose and demanded that the government not extradite Nakash and furthermore not to extradite any Jew to anywhere at any time for any reason. As the wave of xenophobia swept higher over the land, Mondrowitz was forgotten. The facts or urban legend in the Nakash case are these. The year was 1983. His brother ran a nightclub. Arab toughs were repeatedly hassling him and his customers, he said. He called William. He came, caught up with the ringleader and pumped eight bullets in his back in an alley. Some time later he headed for the Promised Land. He was convicted in absentia and sentenced to life. Meanwhile Nakash was arrested in Israel and in jail found religion. Nakash is a Sephardi. Yitzhak Peretz, head of Shas, the party that represents the interests of religious Sephardis, was interior minister. Shas held the balance of power in the government. The French are not getting Nakash, said Peretz, and we were off to the races. This wasn't just religious fanaticism admixed with political opportunism gone wild. Peretz touched a very deep and sensitive nerve in the Israeli psyche. Zionism itself was founded in response to the framing in France on charges of treason of an army captain, Alfred Dreyfus. The belief, embedded by centuries of experience, is that a Jew will not get a fair shake "out there." Nakash was portrayed as a hero defending his people against Arab persecution. Even so a survey showed a 5343 split in favor of turning him over. If you abrogate a treaty, you hurt Israel, went the argument. Besides if we turn Israel into a sanctuary for fugitives we'll be swamped with all the riffraff of the world – Jew or not, they'll produce counterfeit documents proving they were sixth generation Hebrews or born on Mars, whatever it takes, to gain entry. The French said this case had nothing to do with communal relations; it was a settling of accounts among rival criminals. The French were probably right. Nakash took the name "Rudy Atlan" when he got here. He was arrested according to Le Nouvel Observateur "pendant une tentative de holdup," – during an attempted holdup. It must have been some holdup. The Chicago Tribune said he tried to dispossess a Christian prelate of 60 gold bars and \$2 million in cash. Only later did the police discover that it was Nakash they had in custody. Peretz made the point that the French are big hypocrites and that's true too. The French along with many other countries such as Russia and

Germany do not extradite their nationals, the most egregious French case even then being that of

the film director Roman Polanski, who raped a 13-year-old girl in the US. In 1987 after a long

Mexican standoff between the government and the Supreme Court Nakash was finally extradited

and given 20 years in a new trial.

The same year Nakash exited stage right there was an election. On his way out the door Peretz

who was also responsible for the Mondrowitz case was asked on Israel TV why he didn't act on

US requests to "extradite" Mondrowitz. (Wrong question. What he had the right to do was "deport"

him.) He replied that he had no conclusive proof that the charges against Mondrowitz were true.

Well, he had conclusive proof in the Nakash case, a corpus delicti, but it didn't matter.

Someone

else calling a spade a spade might have said that what Peretz was really doing was shielding, protecting and aiding a monster in clerical garb.

A new sheriff rode into town. He talked so tough you'd think that Wyatt Earp himself had come back to life. His name: Roni Milo, later mayor of Tel Aviv. He was put in charge of the interior

ministry. Milo promised there would be no more monkey business in the Mondrowitz case. He went on radio and announced he would deport Mondrowitz immediately, forthwith, posthaste according to an Associated Press report (which also erroneously used the word "extradite.")

Said

Milo after perusing the same documents given Peretz, "This is one of the worst cases I could ever

imagine. After checking the details I decided this man should be sent to the United States and be

punished for the terrible things he did to children." That apparently was the last word Milo spoke

ever on the Mondrowitz case. He wasn't deported. Nothing at all happened. One thing that was

done was that Israeli law was updated to make it explicitly clear that a male must be regarded as a

sexual object no less than a female. You've come a long way baby. But no effort was made to paste this update into the extradition treaty which remained a nonstarter.

And then in 1989 Hynes

became DA in Brooklyn and the Mondrowitz case was deepsixed over there.

The window of opportunity to catapult Mondrowitz back to Brooklyn, no fuss, no bother, was only

there at most for a day or two when Milo arrived on the scene. It was theoretically open until 1996

but not in any practicable manner. This goes to the question of how much responsibility

Hynes

must bear for nonaction,

at least until 1996. The answer is none.

On the basis of the information in the public record, I think it is safe to say that Mondrowitz did not possess Israeli citizenship until 1996. The government can deport a noncitizen at any time for any reason as I understand it. It does this all the time. When Milo saw the file I think he was sincere in saying he would immediately give Mondrowitz the boot. And as interior minister all he had to do was sign on the dotted line. Unfortunately Milo was not the interior minister. He was a deputy minister in the prime minister's office assigned to ride herd on the interior ministry. The interior minister officially was the prime minister Yitzhak Shamir. Shamir had a razorthin majority dependent on the votes of the ultraOrthodox parties. Shamir was a very astute politician. Maybe he didn't need a nudge from anyone when he heard the radio broadcast to call Milo and tell him to back off. Or maybe someone from the ultraOrthodox community drew it to his attention that he would be better off without this issue. The upshot was that Milo was muzzled and he left that office after a few months. For the next five years the interior ministry was the property of the ultraOrthodox Shas in the hands of the notorious Aryeh Deri, a demagogue and a crook who stayed until he was charged with corruption in 1993 on his way to prison. Deri played the heartstrings of his base to perfection; he would never touch this issue. Anything else, just leave cash; cheques and credit cards not accepted. Next up in the interior ministry was the prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in name only the same as Shamir. But those were the opening days of the Oslo peace push. The country was in an uproar the whole time and it culminated in Rabin's assassination. I think when he delegated authority in the interior minister the understanding was not to make waves. The upshot is that Hynes could have walked back and forth in front of the interior ministry for six years with a sign on his back that said GIVE ME MONDROWITZ OR GIVE ME DEATH and it would haven't made an iota of difference. Any Jew in the world can show up in Israel and claim citizenship under the Law of Return. The right goes to anyone with one Jewish grandparent and applies to members of their immediate families. They get an immigration certificate which is loaded with benefits as in customs and tax exemptions, which they keep, and they can trade it in for a citizenship certificate immediately or at any time. The immigrant absorption ministry handles applicants coming under the Law of Return, the vast majority. When the Iron Curtain fell in 1989 the immigrant absorption minister was none other than Yitzhak Peretz. Give him credit because until he left in 1992 he had landed a

record

number of new citizens, 400,000 alone from the former Soviet Union and 30,000 more from Ethiopia. There was a dark side. Immigration officials stood at the turnstiles of the airport and rubberstamped

the absorption of an estimated 35 of the most notorious criminals in the world; the Russian mafia had arrived. Not all of these were Jews or married to a woman with a Jewish grandparent; but they all could produce impeccable documents. You might say that Peretz got his

revenge bigtime

for losing Nakash. But to be fair to Shas there is a big upside to their bring 'em back alive and don't get hung up on technicalities attitude. In 1973 when the question arose of whether to allow in the Falasha from Ethiopia. They claimed to be Jews but had been separated

for millennia from the mainstream. The immigration absorption ministry studied the matter and concluded they are not ours. The Ashkenazi chief rabbi Shlomo Goren backed this finding. Ovadia Yosef, the Sephardi chief rabbi who would later found Shas, proclaimed they are flesh of

our flesh and bone of our bones. Welcome them aboard. Ovadia stood alone until Goren switched

sides in 1974. Within a few years his ruling was adopted by the government and Israel is much the richer for it.

Mondrowitz got his citizenship in 1996 and made it that much harder to get rid of him. Who gave it

to him? There are three possibilities. The first is Yuri Edelstein, the minister of immigrant absorption, former prisoner of conscience in the Soviet Union. I rule him out because he is Yuri

Edelstein. The second is Eli Suissa, the interior minister, another Shasnik. The prime suspect. The third is a faceless bureaucrat who processed the request without knowing that the applicant

was a fugitive on the lam and didn't red flag him up the food chain. Whoever signed off on it I can't

see how the citizenship is legal.

Mondrowitz's parents rode out WWII in Shanghai. Then they returned to their native Poland in 1946 where the bad seed apparently was born. They came to Israel, stayed a few years and took

off. Either they didn't request citizenship or later renounced it. In any event Mondrowitz was not a

citizen until 1996 and could have been deported at any time, as Milo seemed to confirm.

There are

too many unanswered questions to even speculate on how Mondrowitz qualified for citizenship.

He was a highprofile

child molester, a fugitive from justice. The Law of Return allows refusing

citizenship to anyone who may be a threat to public safety. I can't see Edelstein, currently disapora minister, turning a blind eye to this. If Mondrowitz got citizenship through the

naturalization process under the interior ministry of Suissa, he would have had to give up his American citizenship according to the rules. But the State Department issued an alert in 2000 that

Mondrowitz may attempt to reenter the US.

Nothing happened from then to 2007. The new extradition treaty came into effect. The authorities first went after Stefan Colmer, 30, an ultraOrthodox computer technician who was charged with molesting two boys in Brooklyn. The judge ordered him extradited. Mondrowitz would be next.

Many believe that the only reason Mondrowitz avoided facing justice all those years was because

he was protected by the ultraOrthodox community in both Israel and Brooklyn. It can't be otherwise but as proof they point at how quickly the authorities acted in the cases of Kenneth Frank and Michael Leon Zeve, both from California. They were extradited in 2005 before the new

treaty went into effect. The Frank case doesn't apply. He was a physician who raped two women

and skipped out awaiting sentence in the 1989. They found him working as a doctor at a local clinic in Israel. (Like the others he was living under an assumed name. How he got his medical

licence under these circumstances is another question.) In Zeve's case the information is conflicting. He was a coach at a Wayne Gretzky Roller Hockey Center who molested boys there.

On the eve of his trial he fled to Israel. One version of events is that a private eye, essentially a

bounty hunter, located him. Another version is that he was arrested in Israel on suspicion of molesting children; a female acquaintance went on the Internet and found his real identity.

They couldn't use the old treaty but they did get him out of there tout de suite. How is not explained. Under the new extradition treaty the state went after Mondrowitz, won in the lower court, lost in the

Supreme Court in 2010. Mondrowitz was also charged with four counts of possession of child porno material, But inexplicably those charges were dropped. Haaretz reported at the time of his

arrest in 2007, "Mondrowitz is currently devoting most of his energy, in the many leisure hours at

his disposal, to the Internet. There he gratifies his deviant inclinations by watching clips of sadistic

activity and pedophilic material. In his remaining time he makes a living by issuing bogus academic degrees to all comers, particularly to students from the Third World." The New York Post added this year, "Multiple emails

copied from his computer and turned over to the FBI show that Mondrowitz trolled childporn

web sites, buying access to titles such as ErectXboys, SchoolBoys, Boy Heaven and Boys Lagoon." Since 2010 after the stunning loss in the Supreme

Court there's been not a peep out of the Israeli government on Mondrowitz and things are just as

quiet in Brooklyn. What are the options open now to go after him?

If you don't think anything can be done then you don't understand what an ellipse is. The expression is "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again." You see the word "try" twice but the three dots after the second try are omitted but understood. That makes it an ellipse; you may have

to try 100 times. The same goes for the Torah law "justice, justice shall you follow." That too is an

ellipse. No ever said that getting justice was easy.

The Mondrowitz scandal because of the number of victims and the fact that it touches two countries is at least as large as the Penn State scandal. Do anything and it will explode into the

news in both Israel and New York. This is an election year there and running up to one here. A lot

can be done. For example if a candidate for office in Brooklyn wrote to the justice minister Yaacov

Ne'eman and asked him what are his plans now following the Supreme Court ruling, that's a story.

If Ne'eman doesn't reply, that's a story. Whatever Ne'eman does say, that's a story.

Momentum

builds.

I see three possible courses of action. I'll take them from the least promising to the most. The first

option is illegal in Israel so I will make the disclaimer that I am not advocating it, just reporting it.

Abduction

Crossborder

bounty hunters live by the fact that if they do abduct a fugitive in a foreign country and get him into court, US law turns a blind eye. Private citizens in Israel don't have this right but

for the security forces the tool is always available. The most famous cases are Adolf Eichmann,

the Nazi, from Argentina in 1962 and Mordechai Vanunu, the atomic traitor, from Italy in 1986.

Just

last year Dirar Abu Sisi, an arms engineer who developed the Qassam rocket used by Hamas in

Gaza, boarded a train in the Ukraine and the next thing he knew he was in an Israeli prison.

Deportation

Both the Knesset and the interior ministry have the right to strip an undesirable of his citizenship

and then deport him. We'll start with the interior ministry. It's been done once.

The Law of Return permits the state to deny citizenship to anyone deemed a threat to public safety. This was applied when Meir Lansky, the US gangster, showed up in 1970 after the FBI charged him with income tax evasion. Lansky and his chum from youth Lucky Luciano founded

the National Crime Syndicate which for years ran organized crime in the US. Luciano and Lansky

meshed because Luciano believed anyone could be a successful gangster, not just Italians.

When

he wiped out the capo di tutti capi (boss of bosses) Maranzano who stood in his way all five

assassins were Jews. Unlike some criminals Lansky had actually some feeling for his people. One night during a rally for Hitler in NY he arrived with his boys, waded into the crowd, and knocked Nazis left and right. When Israel needed arms during the War of Independence and the

US imposed an embargo, he arranged it with the waterfront unions in NY to look the other way.

The government denied his citizenship request under the “threat to public safety” clause and the

Supreme Court upheld it. Lansky was sent back, was acquitted at his trial, and lived out his days

watching his life glamorized in the character Hyman Roth in “Godfather Part 2.”

In 1978 the government adopted what was called the continental system where states don’t extradite their citizens. The Nakash ruling didn’t put too much of a hole in that but then came the

Russian mafia starting in 1990. They got into all the rackets, the most disturbing was a new one

they introduced, human trafficking, and the most lucrative, money laundering. Globes in 2009 cited

Wikileaks quoting a US ambassador as saying, “Sources in the police estimate that Russian organized crime has laundered as much as US \$10 billion through Israeli holdings.” We don’t have

the dates for that figure but until 2000 there was no law against money laundering in Israel so whatever was moved was legit. In the years following that law Russian activity in the underworld

seemed to significantly decrease.

AntiSemites

are much agitated by the fact that there appear to be so many Jewish gangsters. It’s just that we are spread out in so many countries. I don’t think we’ve outdone the Italians.

Besides

that they have their history; we have ours. In the Middle Ages there were times when all the highwaymen in large sections of Germany were Jews. People used to restrict their travel to Saturdays when the highwaymen were at home with their families.

The police said there were 35 Russian mobsters who obtained citizenship in the 90s – at one point

Israel threatened to deport 30. Fortunately the worst of them, Semion Mogilevich, arrived in 1990

with some of his top lieutenants, and left the next year. The Village Voice, quoting the FBI, called

Mogilevich “the most dangerous mobster in the world.” Mogilevich has been involved in arms trafficking, prostitution, extortion and murder for hire, and everything else in between. Time quoted

the FBI as saying “he can, with a telephone call ... affect the global economy.” In 2009 the FBI placed him on its 10 Most Wanted list. He walks around Moscow with no worries since Russia does not extradite its citizens and the government there gives him a wide berth. The FBI has a

reward on his head of \$100,000 but he has more gunmen than a small army protecting him.

Yes

this one is a Jew but why the Israeli government even let him get off the plane boggles the

mind.

He remains entitled to carry an Israeli passport.

What is pertinent here is that Israel did strip one of these mobsters of his citizenship and deport

him. His lawyer challenged the right of the interior minister, that's Eli Suissa, to revoke citizenship

and the Supreme Court had to rule whether the interior minister did indeed have this right.

This

Supreme Court ruling vindicated Suissa. The judgment is quite long and comprehensive touching

on all the issues and constitutes an important precedent.

Anton Malevsky came here in 1994. He had a Jewish grandparent. He and his close friend Michael Cherney aka Mikhail Chernoy who came about the same time were involved in the "aluminium wars" then raging in Russia over control of the aluminium industry. People were being

killed left, right, and centre.

The initiative against Malevsky came from the police in 1996. Fortune quoted the Russian interior

minister describing Malevsky as "a leader of the Izmailovo crime family, one of the country's oldest, biggest, and most vicious groups." Our police as quoted in court documents said that Malevsky's "organization is known as one that will stop at no violence including killing rivals to advance its objectives. ... Malevsky himself stood behind a number of murders. He was involved

in trafficking in large quantities of drugs, protection rackets, and more." Since the guy is dead and

can't sue me I'll add what they say about him on the sites that cover Russia crime. "He was a trigger man."

Malevsky was stripped of his citizenship in 1998 and booted out of the country. Three years later

he died in a skydiving accident in South Africa. Ynet reported his death with the speculation that

he was bumped off. But he loved skydiving and was a daredevil. Witnesses said he tried a dangerous manoeuvre close to the ground and it went wrong. He was 32 years ago.

What they did with Malevsky the interior ministry now tried with his alter ego Cherney, cancel his

passport while moving forward to strip him of his citizenship. Cherney is a very wealthy man; he's

worth north of a billion dollars, some say far north. The Independent cautioned that no one really

knows. Cherney decided to act. In 1999 he purchased goods from a company owned by Avigdor

Lieberman, the politician, today foreign minister, at a cost of \$500,000. Not long after that Lieberman began moving heaven and earth in government circles to try to get Cherney back his

passport. The police saw this as a quid pro quo, which is illegal, and charged him.

In 2004 the interior minister then, Avraham Porat, notified Cherney that he intended to strip him of

his citizenship because as Haaretz reported he was involved in "murders and attempted

murders.” About the same Cherney was called into a police station, at the request of Russian authorities, and told he was being investigated in connection with the murder of banker Vadim Yafyasov in 1995. But then Porat backed off, Cherney kept campaigning for his passport and finally in 2008 the Supreme Court gave it to him. He’s unlikely to travel far because the Interpol

has a warrant out for him in connection with money laundering in Spain. Meanwhile the Lieberman,

Cherney, police minuet continues to play on endlessly with ever new twists and turns but without any resolution.

What is pertinent here is that the interior ministry tried to strip two undesirables of their citizenship,

succeeded in one case but the headwind was too strong in the other. If they ever did intend to go

after 30 Russian gangsters as reported by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, they backed off that

plan long ago.

In 2009 Damien Karlik, a man wanted for armed robbery in Russia, came to Israel with his wife

Natalya, who had a Jewish grandparent. He got a job as a waiter at a restaurant operated by the

Oshrenko family. He stole a bottle of vodka so they fired him. He became obsessed with seeking

revenge. His wife went to work there and stole the house keys. When the parents, in their 30s,

and the grandparents, in their 50s, and the children, both under the age of three, came home Karlik

stabbed them to death, six murders in all.

Meir Sheetrit, a former interior minister, was asked, how could a man like this with an outstanding

warrant be admitted into the country. He replied that the interior ministry is supposed to check criminal records of applicants but they don’t. “During my two years as minister, I wasn’t once presented with a case of a candidate who should be denied citizenship due to a criminal record.”

Russia did formally ask for his extradition but out of 200 requests Israel receives each year maybe four are acted on.

In the Mondrowitz case I think the only way Israel would act via the interior minister is if there were

a high level request from the State Department or Congress. Otherwise he’ll continue to be lost in

the shuffle.

Trial In Israel

In the final paragraph of their judgment denying the extradition of Mondrowitz the Supreme Court

judges exclaimed, you shoulda coulda tried Mondrowitz in Israel. Past tense. No suggestion of

doing it in the future, but then why not?

The prototype for this option was the case of Samuel Sheinbein in 1999. Sheinbein, then 17, was a

student at a Jewish day school in Maryland. He had a crush on a girl. She was dating another guy. Sheinbein decided to kill him, but first he wanted to practise on someone. He had a Jewish friend Aaron Needle, who always had problems in school getting kicked out one after the other. Needle used to hang out with a Hispanic, Alfredo Enrique Tello Jr., who worked at a tropical fish store. One night they were cruising around with three girls and started exchanging racial slurs. Tello punched Needle, stopped the car and punched him again. But they were back together the rest of the week. Apparently Needle fingered Tello to Sheinbein as his practise dummy. They sliced and diced Tello, threw away the limbs never found and burned the body. Sheinbein's father, a lawyer, had been born in mandated Palestine but left Israel as a child. He still had an Israeli passport. Sheinbein, the son, headed for the Promised Land. He checked into a hotel, his brother brought him a prostitute, and after a few days of partying ended up overdosed in a hospital. That's where the police found him. The family claimed he was an Israeli citizen. Another can of worms. The government said he wasn't a citizen. The grandparents had renounced their citizenship and the Law of Return had not yet been passed. The father couldn't pass it on. The lower court ruled that the kid was a citizen. Our Supreme Court seems to work on the principle that two wrongs make a right. In the Nakash case you had a man trying to rehabilitate himself with broad community support, the government deciding not to extradite him on the basis of the 1978 continental law, and the country France requesting him adhering to the same policy of not extraditing its citizens so it wouldn't have hurt bilateral relations if Israel hadn't turned him over. Yet the Supreme Court rode roughshod over all that and sent him away. In Sheinbein you had a character straight out of the "Clockwork Orange" movie that the government said wasn't a citizen and meanwhile American politicians were incensed that Israel was not sending him back to Maryland for trial and the issue threatened to damage relations in a tangible way. Israel only has two friends in the world and no one knows how long Micronesia can stand the gaff. The country could not afford to alienate the Americans over a tangential issue like this. Yet the Supreme Court citing the 1978 law ruled he can't be extradited. Oh yeah, what of that issue about the grandparents? The grandmother testified that her husband had forced her to renounce her citizenship. The judges even swallowed that. Sheinbein had to be tried here.

This was a logistical nightmare for Maryland. The law is different, the language is different, the system is different, that's a huge distance to ferry maybe 50 witnesses and tons of documents which would have had to be translated. (Needle had hung himself in jail so he was out of the equation.) Sheinbein was facing life without parole in the US. He copped a plea and got 24 years,

parole possibility after 16.

When Mondrowitz went to the lower court his lawyer tried to claim he was protected by the statute

of limitations (theirs or ours I'm not sure). The court ruled that a fugitive cannot benefit from the

statute of limitations. That means that the original charges stand and if the witnesses are still willing, they could try him on that evidence. What about the other victims? I don't know the

answer. I think a local trial is worth pursuing even if they just convict him on one charge. It seems

to me the door is ajar here, but again the pressure has to come from over there. At least culture

shock will be less of a problem for people coming from Brooklyn.

There is one other theoretical possibility to strip Mondrowitz of his citizenship which is so remote I

don't dignify it with a subhead. That would be a bill passed by the Knesset.

Agudath Israel is the umbrella organization for the ultraOrthodox.

There is no pope in Israel but

what they say goes for these people. In Israel they have representatives in the Knesset and of course they rule the roost in Brooklyn.

In Brooklyn Hynes stung by criticism that he had given ultraOrthodox

sex pervs a free pass

unleashed the dogs and in the last three years busted 85 child molesters, their 117 victims split

between male and female; two of the pervs were yiddishe mamas. If in the past Agudath rabbis

were more Catholic than the cardinals in covering up the crimes of paedophiles but now have come around half way; they encourage reporting incidents not to the authorities but to them.

That's

known as the Penn State policy; we saw how that worked out there. The policy in the Torah, to

which apparently they have exempted themselves, is called "not to be a respecter of persons."

Jack the Ripper is still remembered because he killed a series of women in Britain and was never

caught although it was not for the authorities lack of trying. Mondrowitz is Israel's Jack the Ripper,

an arch fiend who was never brought to justice. Agudath Israel must accept much responsibility

for this happening; from the fact that none of his Jewish victims came forward until after the Italians did; that he found out that the police were coming; that no one in government except Milo

wanted to come after him here aware Agudath was against it; that he's been helped to find work in

Israel; and on and on.

Agudath can make it right. If someone else introduced a bill in the Knesset to strip Mondrowitz of his citizenship, it would die in committee. If Agudath Israel did it, it would reach the floor and pass 1200.

It would be a statement of historic proportions.

How can this be made possible? If 50 righteous men in Agudath stood up and demanded it, it would be done. If there aren't 50, perhaps 40. If not 40, perhaps 30. If not 30, perhaps 20. If not 20, perhaps 10. Actually if there were one righteous man in Agudath he could bring the others around.

Is there one righteous man in Agudath?

I'm not being entirely frivolous here. As Cervantes said, "Tell me what company you keep and I'll tell you what you are." It's a slippery slope from accommodating a man who commits sodomy on defenceless children and being thought of as being accommodating to everything else that went on in the city that is the namesake of that word.

© 2014 THE TIMES OF ISRAEL, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

6/8/2015 Mondrowitz – Three Ways To Get Him | Dov Ivry | The Blogs | The Times of Israel

<http://>