

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 7:16 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: NY lawmaker to bring home US-Israeli (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 06:09 PM
To: NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-CA; NEWS-H
Subject: NY lawmaker to bring home US-Israeli (AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) - A U.S. congressman has arrived in Israel to bring home a U.S.-Israeli citizen who was arrested in Egypt four months ago on suspicions of espionage.

A statement from Rep. Gary Ackerman on Wednesday said he traveled to Israel to bring home Ilan Grapel, a Queens, N.Y., constituent. Grapel is expected to be released Thursday afternoon. The timing on his return to New York is uncertain.

The 27-year-old Grapel was arrested June 12 during the height of Egypt's uprising, which ousted President Hosni Mubarak.

Egypt accused Grapel of being a Mossad agent trying to sabotage the revolution. But it gave no evidence to support the claims, and even in Egypt, the arrest was widely ridiculed.

Israel on Tuesday approved a deal to swap 25 Egyptian prisoners for Grapel.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.