

Israeli Prime Minister's Envoy Resigns Amid Graft Scandal



Tel Aviv, October 26 (RHC)-- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's personal envoy and confidant has resigned amid accusations of ties to a submarine graft scandal in which Netanyahu is implicated.

"I respectfully request that you discharge me from my position as emissary and special diplomatic adviser to the premier," wrote Yitzhak Molcho in a letter to the Israeli prime minister on Wednesday.

Molcho served in the said positions during Netanyahu's first term as prime minister from 1996 to 1999 and then again since 2009. He also headed negotiations with Palestinians, and was Netanyahu's envoy during talks with neighboring Arab countries Jordan and Egypt. At the time, lawmakers censured his actions as he only answered to Netanyahu and was not accountable for official parliamentary checks.

Molcho is also partner in a law firm with David Shimron, Netanyahu's attorney and cousin, who is subject to a graft probe involving the purchase of submarines from Germany.

Earlier in the year, a High Court of Justice petition was filed against Molcho concerning his work for Netanyahu.



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