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NEWS

## RABBI MADE THREATS IN RAPE CASE: PROBERS

BY WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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A politically connected Brooklyn rabbi was charged yesterday with threatening an alleged rape-incest victim with death if she testified against her father, authorities said. Police charged Bernard Freilich, who holds posts with the state police and Health Department, with misdemeanor witness tampering. Sources said prosecutors will present the case to a grand jury and seek felony charges. The \$76,000-a-year special assistant to state police Superintendent James McMahon went to the alleged victim's home April 25 and warned that if she testified, "she would end up in the cemetery," authorities said. Freilich, a prominent Hasidic rabbi in Borough Park, threatened her husband the next day, authorities said. The state police said in a statement that Freilich had been suspended without pay and relieved of his duties, which "included being a spiritual adviser to the state police and the Health Department.

"Spokesmen for both agencies declined to elaborate on his duties. Freilich denied involvement in the case hours before his 8 a.

m. surrender at the 66th Precinct stationhouse. "This is just pure garbage," Freilich said Wednesday night. "There is no reason for me to be arrested.

"The rabbi, who was awaiting arraignment last night, couldn't be reached, and his lawyer, Richard Finkel, didn't return calls seeking comment. He was the third person arrested for allegedly trying to get the woman to drop the rape charges, court records show. Also charged with witness tampering was Pinchas Shor, a Borough Park contractor and prominent figure in the Russian emigre community. The father charged Feb. 28 with first-degree rape, incest, sex abuse and harassment was arrested again April 22 for witness tampering and criminal contempt. He violated an order of protection by pounding on his daughter's door at 6:30 a.

m. April 22, yelling, "If you do not cancel your police report, this is your last day in this world," court records allege. The News is withholding the names of the woman and her father, a 48-year-old Russian immigrant. The relationship between Freilich and the father was unclear. In 1995, Freilich came to the defense of two other Brooklyn rabbis charged with sexually abusing a 15-year-old on a Los Angeles-bound jetliner. One rabbi later pleaded guilty to abusive sexual contact and was sentenced to 22 months in federal prison.

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Broncos (note that the line has now dropped to +4.5 out in Vegas). You've probably heard enough of the Peyton Manning vs. Tom Brady thing. Blah, blah, blah. We're

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**Awards**

doesn't mean the "Saving Mr. Banks" star hasn't been

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