

**RELEASE IN FULL**

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 5, 2011 10:18 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Top Israeli rabbi: Segregated buses not Jewish law (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Monday, December 05, 2011 09:49 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** Top Israeli rabbi: Segregated buses not Jewish law (AP)

JERUSALEM - (AP) Israel's chief rabbi has ventured into the divisive question of gender segregation, saying such practices, adopted by some devout Jews, are not required by Jewish law.

Rabbi Shlomo Amar spoke on Monday after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was quoted by Israeli media as expressing shock over segregated buses and other practices adopted by ultra-Orthodox religious activists.

In a radio interview, Amar criticized these relatively new and controversial practices. He says people do these things for their own sake, but "it's not Jewish law."

In recent months, radical activists have also cowed advertisers into removing images of women from billboards, shunted women onto separate sidewalks and walked out of military events where women were singing.

*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.*