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IMF Chief Denied Bail in Sex Assault Case

Fund Chief Consents to Physical Exam by Police After Accusations He Attacked Maid

By TAMER EL-GHOBASHY, GERALDINE AMIEL, SUDEEP REDDY and DAVID GAUTHIER-VILLARS



Getty Images

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, center, departs a New York Police Department precinct on his way to Manhattan Criminal Court in New York late Sunday.

International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn was ordered held without bail in a sex assault case after an appearance in a New York City courtroom Monday.

Attorneys representing Mr. Strauss-Kahn, who has been charged with sexually assaulting a chamber maid at a Manhattan hotel, argued that their client was not a flight risk and was prepared to post a \$1 million bail package. Mr.

Strauss-Kahn was not required to enter a plea. His attorneys said the IMF chief denies the charges.

Prosecutors said the allegations against Mr. Strauss-Kahn were substantial and that he had little motivation to return to court to answer to the charges.



After hearing both sides, the judge, Melissa Jackson, ordered Mr. Strauss-Kahn to be held without bail pending grand jury action on the case.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn, 62 years old, appeared briefly in court, sitting in a holding pen where defendants wait to be called for arraignment but was then removed. It was unclear why he was taken away.



Reuters

Dominique Strauss-Kahn appears in Manhattan Criminal Court during his arraignment in New York on Monday.

International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn was ordered held without bail after an appearance in a New York City courtroom.

Once his case was called Mr. Strauss-Kahn returned and listened to the proceedings quietly.

During the proceedings, prosecutors charged Mr. Strauss-Kahn with two counts of criminal sexual act in the first degree, one count of attempted rape in the first degree, one count of sexual abuse in the first degree, one count of unlawful imprisonment in the second degree, one count of forcible touching, and one count of sexual abuse in the third degree.

The top charge of criminal sexual act carries a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. said in a statement.

Strauss-Kahn in Court



Emmanuel Dunand/Getty Images

Dominique Strauss-Kahn appeared for his arraignment in federal court Monday in New York City.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn is scheduled to appear in court May 20th.

The charges stem from an alleged incident Saturday afternoon inside a suite at the Sofitel Hotel in Midtown Manhattan.

The arrest of Mr. Strauss-Kahn on sexual-assault

charges threatened to upend French politics and weaken the IMF's central role in resolving Europe's deepening debt crisis.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn's arraignment had been delayed after he "willingly consented to a scientific forensic examination tonight," said his attorney William Taylor, outside of Manhattan Criminal Court Sunday night. Prosecutors requested the exam, Mr. Taylor said. The IMF chief agreed to it after police had earlier requested a search warrant to look for scratches and DNA evidence belonging to his accuser. His client is "tired, but he's fine," Mr. Taylor said, and was expected to spend the night in police custody.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn also retained prominent defense attorney Benjamin Brafman, whose clients have included singer Michael Jackson and rapper Sean Combs. Mr. Brafman said Mr. Strauss-Kahn would plead not guilty.

New details emerged of the scramble to detain Mr. Strauss-Kahn in the hours after the alleged incident Saturday. A key moment came, police said, when Mr. Strauss-Kahn called the hotel to ask if he had left his cellphone there. A hotel security official fibbed and said he did have the phone—then asked for Mr. Strauss-Kahn's location to meet him and return it. Police made the arrest at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, where Mr. Strauss-Kahn had boarded a flight for France.

More

[Charges Leave IMF Job in Limbo](#)

The surprising arrest came amid increasing global attention for the IMF, an organization of 187 nations that advises and lends to troubled economies. Mr. Strauss-Kahn, the fund's managing director, has been a proponent of financial rescues in Europe as the global economy



Associated Press

New York police personnel at the Sofitel hotel on Saturday.

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or not.

The IMF's executive board, whose 24 officials represent the fund's countries, had planned an informal briefing Sunday evening but postponed it after Mr. Strauss-Kahn's arraignment came later than expected. The No. 2 official at the fund, First Deputy Managing Director John Lipsky, stepped into the role of acting managing director—under standard procedures during the absence of the top official—and planned to chair any board meeting.



The arrest of IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn has thrown into disarray the fund's leadership. The Journal's Bob Davis and J.R. Whalen discuss.

recovers from the financial downturn and the Continent reels from a series of government debt crises.

The arrest could change the course of France's presidential elections next year. Mr. Strauss-Kahn had been widely expected to leave the IMF soon to enter the race as the leading Socialist Party candidate, and was running ahead of President Nicolas Sarkozy in recent polls. The arrest likely scuttles Mr. Strauss-Kahn's candidacy, and strengthens Mr. Sarkozy's prospects, analysts said. It could also boost the chances of far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn's wife, Anne Sinclair, a prominent French journalist, said she didn't believe any of the accusations against her husband. In a statement, she said she had no doubt that "he will be proved innocent."

Before police apprehended him in the first-class section of an Air France airplane minutes before takeoff Saturday, Mr. Strauss-Kahn was headed to Europe to meet with German Chancellor Angela Merkel Sunday to discuss the debt crises in Greece, Portugal and Ireland.

He was scheduled to attend key meetings during the week with European finance ministers and other top officials to put finishing touches on an aid package for Portugal and assess options for stemming the deterioration in Greek finances.

The news threw officials in the IMF's Washington headquarters into a frenzy of email, conference calls and informal meetings as they sought to assess their next steps—including whether their chief would resign

The IMF also dispatched a No. 3 official, Deputy Managing Director Nemat Shafik, to Brussels in Mr. Strauss-Kahn's place to attend a Monday meeting of euro-zone finance ministers.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn had been seen as a strong leader in responding to the Continent's debt crisis. He has supported Greece's bailout, even in the face of growing doubts about the Greek government's ability and resolve to meet the commitments of the aid package. He was expected to urge European governments to commit more money to bail out Greece as a condition for further IMF support for the nation.

His arrest could give critics of continued IMF support for Greece—and the rest of the euro zone—ammunition to push back.

Arrest Wrecks Strauss-Kahn French Presidency Hopes

2:15

IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn's arrest on sexual assault charges looks to have wrecked his high hopes of beating Nicolas Sarkozy in France's 2012 presidential election. Video courtesy AFP.



Some emerging-market nations, for instance, have suggested that "if one of their countries were in trouble, the IMF would never give them so much rope," said Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University economist and former IMF official.

As a top IMF official, Mr. Strauss-Kahn has diplomatic immunity only on official fund business. He was in New York on private business, an IMF official said. The potential sentence Mr. Strauss-Kahn could face

if convicted will depend on the number and specific type of charges filed against him.

Police said a 32-year-old cleaning woman accused Mr. Strauss-Kahn of sexually assaulting her in the Sofitel Hotel near Times Square. The alleged victim, a native of Guinea and mother of two, said she entered room 2806, a \$3,000-a-night luxury suite, around 12 p.m. on Saturday to clean it, thinking it was empty, according to a law-enforcement official with knowledge of the case.

According to the narrative she gave investigators, Mr. Strauss-Kahn emerged from the bathroom nude and approached her from behind and touched her breast, then threw her on to the bed, the official said.

She told police she broke free but was then pushed into a rear hallway of the suite near the bathroom. Mr. Strauss-Kahn allegedly caught up with her and sexually assaulted her, the official said, before allowing her to leave.

The accuser informed hotel security officials, who showed her a photo of the suite's occupant. After she identified Mr. Strauss-Kahn as her attacker, hotel officials then called police, the official said. The alleged victim was taken to a hospital where she was treated for trauma, tested for sexual assault and later released, the official said.

The official said detectives have recovered DNA evidence at the scene.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn checked out of the Sofitel at 12:28 p.m., police said. But it was his call from JFK airport to the hotel in search of his phone at 3:40 p.m. that identified his whereabouts. Police were then able to locate him and escort him from the plane. Later in the night, Mr. Strauss-Kahn was formally charged with sexual assault and attempted rape, the department later said in a statement. On Sunday, the woman picked the IMF chief out of a lineup at a Manhattan police station, the official said.

The arrest threw into question whether Mr. Strauss-Kahn will be forced to resign his IMF slot. In 2008, early in his IMF term, he was investigated by the IMF's staff for whether he abused his power by having an affair with a female staffer. Although he was cleared of abuse of power charges, several directors said they warned Mr. Strauss-Kahn that such conduct wouldn't be allowed in the future and that he had brought the IMF into disrepute.

—Bob Davis, Ian Talley, Andrew Grossman and Pervaiz Shallwani contributed to this article.

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Next in Line?

Selected potential contenders for the top post at the International Monetary Fund, which has traditionally gone to a European



Rendering...

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