

Del. chief medical examiner is

Ali Z. Hameli helped identify Josef Mengele's remains in '85. He also assisted the MOVE probe.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILMINGTON — A forensics expert who gained renown while Delaware's chief medical examiner has been fired and is also the target of a criminal investigation, the state's chief prosecutor said yesterday.

The investigation is focused on Dr. Ali Z. Hameli, who helped identify the remains of Nazi Josef Mengele in

1985. Hameli was fired Wednesday as chief medical examiner, a post he held for nearly 28 years. Although officials refused comment, the firing came about when two employees accused him of sexual harassment.

"We are in the process of looking into the criminal matters," Chief Deputy Attorney General Kathleen Jennings said. "Frankly, we waited a

while to start the criminal investigation so that [each issue] would be kept totally separate and distinct from any personnel decision that has been made."

Jennings declined to elaborate about the investigation. But she said she expects the probe will be completed in a few weeks.

The Wilmington News Journal reported yesterday that state government sources said Hameli, 61, was told to retire or be fired after two female former employees alleged that he verbally and sexually ha-

B3

fired; sex harassment alleged

arrassed them.

Hameli was fired by Carmen R. Nazario, secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services. She said confidentiality laws that protect personnel matters did not allow her to say why Hameli was fired.

"Although I have made it a point to be open and forthright in explaining my decisions, I cannot discuss this one in any greater detail," Nazario said in a statement Wednesday.

Repeated phone calls to Hameli's home went unanswered yesterday.

The chief medical examiner is ap-

pointed by the department secretary to 10-year terms. Hameli assumed the post July 1, 1966, according to department records. Under law, the chief medical examiner can be dismissed for cause.

A committee will conduct a national search to find a replacement. In the interim, Dr. Richard T. Callery has been appointed acting chief. He was a full-time assistant medical examiner from 1989 to 1992 and has continued to serve part time while serving as a pathologist at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington.

Callery will be paid \$105,000. Hameli was making \$107,899.

Hameli gained international recognition as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice. In 1985 he was among an international panel of forensics experts who identified the remains of Mengele, the Nazi "Angel of Death." That same year, Hameli was a consultant to the MOVE Commission, which investigated the police bombing and fire that killed 11 adults and children in West Philadelphia.