

February 2, 2008

## Canadian Inquiry Blames Israelis for Deaths in 2006

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OTTAWA — A Canadian military inquiry's report released Friday blames Israeli forces for the "tragic and preventable" deaths of a Canadian soldier and three other [United Nations](#) observers in [Lebanon](#) in July 2006.

The board of inquiry was convened because of the death of Maj. Paeta Hess-Von Kruedener, a Canadian assigned as a United Nations observer in southern Lebanon when [Israel](#) invaded the region during fighting between Israeli forces and [Hezbollah](#).

A censored version of its report was made public on Friday.

While Israel does not deny that it killed the observers, it says the episode was unintentional.

The four observers were killed by a 1,100-pound G.P.S.-guided bomb dropped by the Israeli military that destroyed most of their observation post.

The Canadian inquiry found that the fatal bombing was the third in a series of attacks on the post over several hours on July 25, 2006. The first two attacks, which included artillery and aerial bombing, damaged the post and led United Nations commanders to schedule its evacuation for the following morning.

The attacks prompted increasingly strong messages from United Nations commanders to Israeli military liaisons asking them to stop attacking the post.

About 40 minutes before the final bomb fell, the report said, a United Nations commander told the Israeli military, "You are killing my people."

The report said that because the Israeli military offered limited cooperation with the inquiry, it could not determine exactly why the bomb was dropped. But it said Israel apparently ignored warnings to stop the attack.

The report said that while the Israeli Army “has acknowledged the receipt of the protests from the U.N. it has failed to explain why the attack was not halted.”

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