

POSITION PAPER: PROTECTING CANADIAN PEACEKEEPERS IN LEBANON



Policy Recommendations for Canada

The following are recommendations to properly follow up on the murder of Canadian peacekeeper Major Paeta Hess-Von Krudener by the Israeli Army on July 25th, 2006. These recommendations are made subsequent to the issuance on Feb. 1, 2008 of the Canadian Board of Inquiry (BOI) report.

- 1) Canada must insist that Israel cooperate fully with the Canadian Forces Inquiry. Canada's request for access to staff and information related to the incidents leading to the death of Hess-Von Krudener were refused by Israel. Instead, Israel provided what the BOI referred to as a "non-paper," understood to be a verbal session with Israeli military staff who had no direct involvement in the incident itself. If Israel agrees to cooperate, the BOI's mandate and report should be updated to reflect all new information gathered.
- 2) Canada must insist on the implementation of the Canadian BOI recommendations.
 - a) Insist on implementation of recommendations pertaining to the UN and Canadian Forces. While making clear that it felt the Canadian and UN command responded adequately to the crisis as it unfolded, the BOI nonetheless made 12 recommendations regarding policies, procedures and planning for CF and UN command, control and communications. These recommendations should be implemented.
 - b) Insist on implementation of recommendations pertaining to Israel's role in the tragedy. The final BOI recommendation – "Recommendations regarding prevention of a similar occurrence in the future" – related to Israeli processes and UN-Israel liaison processes. The recommendations addressed ways to improve the liaison network, and to strengthen the reliability of the multi-cultural and multi-lingual channels used in the network. Canada must push for verifiable implementation of these recommendations
- 3) Canada must insist on full transparency from Israel on how the tragedy occurred. There are too many questions which remain unanswered with Israel's official communications on the tragedy. Both for the concern of its own peacekeepers as well as for those of other nations, Canada must push for explanations and subsequent procedural changes from Israel's chain of command. Questions which must be addressed are ones like:
 - a) How could Israel have allowed so many "operational errors" to occur in the same location over a period of six hours, given that the same UN post was attacked repeatedly over a six hour period?
 - b) What were the "rules of engagement" for the Israeli pilot who dropped the bomb on the post, and were they followed?
 - c) What operational changes will Israel implement in the future to prevent similar such tragedies with UN peacekeepers, Canadian or otherwise

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