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## **CJPME CALLS CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROTEST ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO COOPERATE IN INQUIRY INTO PEACEKEEPER'S DEATH**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MONTREAL, February 15 / – Canada has published the findings of its Board of Inquiry (BOI) into the killing of a Canadian peacekeeper by Israel in July, 2006. Now Canada must act upon its findings, and demand more in terms of protections for peacekeepers, Canadian and otherwise.

The BOI report reviewed all of the circumstances surrounding the death of Major Paeta Hess-Von Krudener on July 25, 2006, and concluded the Israeli Army was responsible for the “tragic and preventable” attack.

“It is unthinkable that Israel would refuse to cooperate in the Canadian inquiry,” asserts Jeff Ayoub of CJPME. “How can Canada be assured that similar incidents will not happen again in the future? Canada and the international community need to understand how a 500 kg. Israeli ‘bunker busting’ bomb can be satellite guided to destroy a UN bunker,” states Ayoub.

With respect to the report itself, “Canada has done what it can for the moment,” says Ayoub. “Canada now needs to follow up with its findings, and ensure that Israel and the UN are following through with the operational recommendations proposed in the report.”

CJPME echoes the concerns of Hess-Von Krudener’s widow, who argues that the Inquiry must be the “first,” and not the “last” step in the process of searching for the truth. “The safety of all peacekeepers, Canadian and otherwise, is in jeopardy if Canada does not promote respect for the courageous individuals who dedicate their lives to peace in this way,” concludes Ayoub.

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### **About CJPME**

*CJPME is a pan-Canadian grassroots advocacy organization uniting Canadians of all backgrounds who believe in justice, peace and security for all people in the Middle East. CJPME seeks to positively influence Canadian foreign policy in the Middle East and Canadian media coverage of the events and peoples of the region. CJPME values Canada’s historical role as a neutral broker in the Middle East, and wants to promote better understanding among Canadians of Middle Eastern issues and dynamics.*

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