

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2011 10:56 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Israel apologizes for Egyptian troop deaths (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2011 10:08 AM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II  
**Subject:** Israel apologizes for Egyptian troop deaths (AP)

JERUSALEM - (AP) Israel's Defense Minister says Israel is sorry for the deaths of Egyptian troops killed during a shootout between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian militants.

Ehud Barak says he has ordered a military investigation and a joint inquiry with the Egyptian army to clarify the circumstances of Friday's incident, when militants from Gaza crossed into southern Israel through the Egyptian desert and launched a deadly attack that killed eight Israeli.

At least three Egyptian troops were killed in a subsequent shootout between Israeli soldiers pursuing the militants along the Israeli-Egypt border. Egypt said Saturday it would recall its ambassador from Israel to protest the deaths.

Barak says that "Israel is sorry over the deaths of the Egyptian officers."

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