

Sen. Dallaire falls asleep, crashes car



Sen. Roméo Dallaire's car rests on a traffic barrier after he crashed it on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sen. Roméo Dallaire nodded off at the wheel of his black BMW and crashed into a traffic barrier on Parliament Hill Tuesday.

The retired general said the news last week of three suicides of Canadian soldiers, coupled with the coming 20th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide, have left him unable to sleep, even with medication.

"Every day I am reliving

the 20th anniversary and reviewing that period of command," he said in an apology to the Senate.

He says he didn't realize how tired he was.

"I simply ran out of steam and fell asleep and crashed my car," he said.

"I am very thankful that nobody was injured or worse by my not being more attentive to the level of fatigue that I have

been experiencing."

Dallaire commanded the ill-fated United Nations peacekeeping mission in Rwanda in central Africa in 1993-94. The UN ignored his warnings of coming strife.

After violence broke out, major international players rebuffed his pleas for more soldiers, leaving him standing as a helpless observer to genocide. THE CANADIAN PRESS