

5 Killed in Shooting at Canadian Condo Building, Police Say - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/19/world/canada/canada-vaughan-shooting-condo.html>

The 73-year-old gunman, who was fatally shot by the police at a high-rise building in Vaughan, Ontario, had been in a long-running feud with the condo board.

VAUGHAN, Canada — A gunman opened fire at a high-rise condominium building outside Toronto, killing five people and injuring a sixth person before being fatally shot by the police on Sunday. The gunman had been in a long-running dispute with members of the condo board.

The suspect, identified by the police as Francesco Villi, 73, was shot and killed by a police officer on the third floor of the building, the police said at a news conference on Monday afternoon. The five people killed had all been residents of the building, and three of them were current board members, according to the police. They did not disclose the victims' names.

On Monday, the police were still trying to identify a motive for the killings, which occurred in Vaughan, a city of about 340,000 about 20 miles north of downtown Toronto that is a major shopping destination and home to Canada's largest amusement park.

But court records show that Mr. Villi had blamed board members for health problems he believed stemmed from what he claimed was a poorly constructed electrical room below his unit.

In a recent [lawsuit](#) he filed against the board, Mr. Villi, representing himself, sought millions of dollars in damages against six defendants he accused of "deliberately causing harm, stress physically, mentally, financially, confusion inability to rest and sleep for over 5 years, torment, torture."

The board, according to the lawsuit, had previously sought a restraining order against him for abusive behavior and harassment. A judge dismissed Mr. Villi's lawsuit, ruling that there was a "complete absence of material facts" in the complaint.

Mr. Villi carried out the shootings with a semiautomatic handgun, according to the authorities. It was not clear whether he had legally purchased the weapon.

The killings were a rare episode of a mass shooting in Canada, where [gun laws](#) are much more restrictive than those in the United States. Gun violence and mass shootings are [less common](#) in Canada than in the U.S.

The last major mass shooting in Toronto — a 2018 [attack in the city's Greektown neighborhood](#) in which a man with a handgun opened fire on a busy street, killing two people and injuring 13 others — [shook residents](#) there, as it came on the heels of a rash of violence across the city.

“We realize a crime of this magnitude is traumatizing for friends and family who at this time of year, especially, now must deal with the tragic death of their loved ones,” Chief Jim MacSween of the York Regional Police said at the news conference on Monday afternoon.

Located in a bustling area of Vaughan, the condo building is in a relatively upscale complex with two other high-rises, and has a gated entrance monitored by security. It includes penthouse suites and a two-bedroom unit currently listed for nearly 1 million Canadian dollars.

The shootings unfolded in three units, C t, identified the injured woman as Doreen DiNino, the partner of John DiNino, a transit union president who is a member of the condo's board of directors and was named as a defendant in Mr. Villi's lawsuit.

In 2018, the board sought restraining orders against Mr. Villi, accusing him of menacing other residents and people involved in managing the building. He was found in contempt of those orders in September 2021 after again making contact with the individuals he was forbidden from speaking with.

Though three of the victims were members of the condominium board, Chief MacSween said “the motive for the shooting remains part of this very complicated and very fluid investigation.”