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## **BILLIONAIRE HEIR OF DASSAULT DIED AT 69 IN A HELICOPTER CRASH IN NORMANDIE**

### **HE WAS ALSO MP OF LES REPUBLICAINS**

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**USPA NEWS** - Olivier Dassault, the French billionaire heir to the Dassault empire, also LR MP (Les Républicains), died at 69, Sunday, March 7th. He was killed in a helicopter crash of his, in Touques (Calvados, Normandy). The pilot is also dead. According to the first indications of the Lisieux prosecutor's investigation for "manslaughter", the helicopter was "perfectly in working order", we learned on Wednesday from the Lisieux prosecutor's office. "All the checks had been made" on the aircraft, which dates from 1986, before takeoff from private property, said Lisieux public prosecutor Delphine Mienniel. "All the checks had been made" before takeoff, said the prosecution investigating the accident that led to the death of LR Member of the French Parliament for Oise, Olivier Dassault. He was the heir to the Dassault Aviation Empire, the world leader in this field, whose state slogan « Higher Together » The patriarch, Serge Dassault, died in May 2018, at the age of 93. The French State, as well as the shareholders of the aeronautical group in the succession phase opened by the death of Serge Dassault, (Dassault Group: 62.2% Dassault Aviation: 0.4% Airbus: 9.9% Free float: 27.4%), on Tuesday."

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#### **AN INVESTIGATION BY ATTORNEY DELPHINE MIENNIEL DOES NOT EXCLUDE A TECHNICAL FAILURE-----**

However, a technical failure is still not ruled out. "The samples are in progress. Subsequently, there will be expertise," said the magistrate. Debris from the squirrel-like device was cleared from the crash site on Tuesday, according to Delphine Mienniel. Has there been human failure? The autopsy carried out on Tuesday, which concluded that Olivier Dassault and his pilot had died from "multiple trauma", does not allow us to say so, explained the magistrate.-----

Little chance of knowing if the pilot is unwell "Afterwards, we took samples which may be more meaningful," added the magistrate. "If there is alcohol or narcotics, toxicological samples will in principle provide us with some answers," in the days to come, said Delphine Mienniel. As for the possible discomfort of the 74-year-old pilot, "As things stand, it is not a cardiac discomfort that appears. In the state of the bodies, I am not convinced that it can be established", explained the magistrate.---

According to the first elements of the investigation, the helicopter "went into a spin with an extremely important centrifugal force" and "broke in two with the tail on one side and the cockpit on the other" after having "hit a tree," added the magistrate. The aircraft had just taken off in an "atypical" fashion, at an angle of about 45 degrees instead of the usual 90, according to the most direct witness to the tragedy, she recalled. This witness is part of the family that owns the place where the tragedy took place, friends of the billionaire administrator of Dassault Aviation. The witness was almost below the helicopter, according to the prosecution. At least two other direct witnesses, personnel of the property, were heard, according to the same source. Investigators will also hear indirect witnesses who were in the vicinity of the property, according to Delphine Mienniel. An investigation for "manslaughter" was opened last Sunday. According to the diocese of Beauvais, a mass is planned for Friday at 10 am in the cathedral of Beauvais in the presence of the body of Olivier Dassault who was deputy of Oise, but without burial, a funeral then being planned in Paris. Source : Express, Le Point, La Tribune

**Article online:**

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