



Conference Statement on Due Process for French Pilots in Dominican Republic

69th Annual IFALPA Conference – Panama City, Panama

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Background

The delegates of the 69th Annual Conference of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Association (IFALPA), who speak for over 100,000 airline pilots throughout the world, expressed their outrage over the Dominican Republic's incarceration of two French pilots for over a year without any due process.

IFALPA has been informed that the two pilots were employed by a charter operator and were assigned by their employer to fly a passenger from the Dominican Republic on March 3, 2013. The pilots were performing normal pre-departure duties when the passenger's baggage was loaded onto the aircraft by authorized airport ground personnel. The pilots had no involvement in the baggage loading. Immediately before take-off, security officials discovered illegal drugs in the passenger's luggage. The passenger, pilots, and several other individuals were arrested. IFALPA is not aware of any evidence that implicates the pilots' in the transport of illegal drugs by the passenger. For over a year, the pilots have not been formally charged nor given any meaningful court hearings where they could establish their innocence.

It is not IFALPA's intention to interfere in the Dominican Republic's judicial process. IFALPA does demand that these pilots be given a fair and prompt court hearing in order that the pilots are able to present their defense proving they were not involved in the transport of illicit drugs, and, finally, that a judicial determination be rendered in their case.

IFALPA Statement

IFALPA demands that the Dominican Republic either immediately release the two French pilots, Pascal Fauret and Bruno Odos, or charge them and provide them with an opportunity for a prompt trial so their guilt or innocence can be determined in a court of law. To detain these pilots for over a year without any formal charges or meaningful judicial action is an unconscionable violation of basic human rights.

Note to Editors: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 100 countries world-wide. IFALPA's mission is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations.

See the Federation website www.ifalpa.org

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