



Conference Statement on Judicial Resolution for Fijian Pilot

69th Annual IFALPA Conference – Panama City, Panama

31 of March 2014

Background

The delegates of the 69th Annual Conference of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Association (IFALPA), who speaks for over 100,000 airline pilots throughout the world, expressed their deep concern for the arrest and detention of Shalend Scott, the Secretary of the Fiji Air Line Pilots Association.

Shalend Scott was the Secretary of the Fiji Air Line Pilots Association and in October, 2011 he was accused of unauthorized access, removal, and publication of Air Pacific documents which disclosed the company's pivotal role in the imposition of a harsh antitrade union law, the Essential National (Employment) Industries Decree. He was arrested and jailed for theft of this property even though he denies any involvement. It is apparent that this arrest was designed to intimidate unions and their officers from exercising their basic human and workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain for wages and working conditions.

Shalend was released from jail and has been under house arrest for 2 ½ years, which is more than the maximum 2 year penalty for the charged offense. His passport was confiscated so he could not leave the Island.

The court hearings to bring this matter to a resolution have been continually delayed for no apparent good reason while Shalend continues under house arrest. The failure of the Fiji government to give Shalend a prompt judicial hearing to address the charges is an unconscionable denial of basic due process. Shalend is entitled to a speedy and fair trial of the charges against him.

IFALPA Statement

IFALPA calls on the Fiji government to either promptly prosecute the charges against Shalend or dismiss them. The delay in Shalend's case has denied him his basic rights, and he is entitled to a prompt resolution of this 2 ½ year ordeal. To continue to delay a judicial resolution of this matter is a 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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