

06PRL022

IFALPA condemnation of arrest of former South African Controller

CHERTSEY 21 April 2006: The International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) supports the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) in condemning the arrest of the former South African air traffic controller involved in an aircraft accident on 19 April 2002.

The report shows that there are several factors that have contributed to this accident, none of which justifies criminal prosecution.

Criminally prosecuting professionals who are working in a highly complex environment where skill and judgement are required to deal with critical situations has a detrimental effect on air safety. The cooperation and interaction between pilots and air traffic controllers to address safety issues is paramount if we are to achieve a marked increase in safety. Criminal prosecution of these professionals has the opposite effect by discouraging active participation in accident investigations by these key parties.

IFALPA joins with IFATCA in calling upon the responsible authorities in South Africa to re-visit the circumstances surrounding the case and seek ways in which a positive contribution can be made to improve air safety in Africa.

Notes to Editors

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 95 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA 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

For more information contact Gideon Ewers, IFALPA Communications Officer +44 1932 579041
gideonewers@ifalpa.org