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# IFALPA says that Concorde manslaughter charges are fundamentally flawed

Chertsey 10 July: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) deplores the decision by prosecutors in France to pursue charges of involuntary manslaughter against Continental Airlines and two of its employees, John Taylor and Stanley Ford, the former Chief of the Concorde programme for Airbus, Henri Perrier and the ex-head of training at the DGAC Claude Franzen in connection with the tragic crash of AF4950 in 2000.

In March of this year when charges were first filed the Federation issued a statement which pointed out that IFALPA noted several flaws in the intended prosecution many of them centring on the concept of negligence. IFALPA argues that for criminal culpability to be established it must be demonstrated that there was intent to cause harm or a disregard of a high probability that harm will occur. In other words, the prosecution of an individual for attempting to deal with a particular situation and failing is without sufficient grounds. Furthermore such prosecutions do nothing to improve the safety of the air transport system and, on the contrary may do much to harm safety improvement.

On the basis of the published record of the investigation into the tragedy of AF4950 there is no evidence of such intent and therefore the prosecution is without foundation and does nothing to improve safety for the traveling public. Accordingly, IFALPA calls on the French Ministry of Justice and Mme Rachida Dati as its Minister to drop the charges forthwith.

## *Notes to Editors*

*The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 100 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](http://www.ifalpa.org)*

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