



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' ASSOCIATIONS

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PRESS RELEASE

Air Safety Compromised in Brazil

IFATCA offers its condolences to the families of this tragic accident involving TAM, which happened in Congonhas Airport in Sao Paulo. We received the news of this accident with horror, but not total disbelief.

Following the mid-air collision in September 2006, this is yet another disastrous civil aviation accident in Brazil in a short period. In both cases numerous warning signs, multiple risks and safety relevant reports were ignored.

IFATCA has condemned the stance of the Brazilian Government to let the military FAB introduce its so called Plan B. This plan was to jail leaders of the air traffic controllers' association and replace highly skilled and trained ATCOs by military air defense personnel who are neither trained, nor qualified to control civilian traffic.

"How many more people will be killed before the Brazilian governments stops the FAB's live experiments on the traveling public's safety?" says the President of IFATCA, Mr. Marc Baumgartner. The Brazilian government has focused much energy in chasing scapegoats instead of re-engineering the necessary safety oversight and risk assessment to prevent Brazilian civil aviation from falling into deeper chaos. By delegating safety oversight, safety management and safety provision to the FAB, the Brazilian government is endangering the lives of the traveling public in Brazil. Warnings on the conditions at the airport in Congonhas have repeatedly been ignored by the authorities.

"IFATCA urges the government of Brazil to stop the current repressive organizations of Air Traffic Control and civil aviation in Brazil. Air safety is currently compromised and is a danger to the traveling public, the Brazilian economy and the credibility of the Brazilian state as a great nation of this world. Continuing to ignore internationally agreed standards on Air Traffic Management and Airport design (layout) will only lead to further hardship and possibly more accidents", warns the President of IFATCA.

IFATCA is the worldwide organization representing more than fifty thousand air traffic controllers in over 130 countries. Amongst its goals are the promotion of safety, efficiency and regularity in international air navigation and the protection and safeguarding of the interests of the air traffic control profession.

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