

IFALPA calls for immediate release of kidnapped Turkish pilots

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREAL - On 9 August 2013, two Turkish Airlines pilots were kidnapped whilst traveling on a bus going from Beirut airport to their crew hotel. They are now being held hostage by a terrorist group, who say they would release the pilots in exchange for nine Lebanese citizens held hostage in Syria.

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) condemns this action and calls for the immediate release of the two pilots.

Any attack on civil aviation constitutes a wilful hazard to the safety and security of passengers and crew. States and Operators should consider the prevention of such attacks as a high priority, and do everything in their power to ensure the security of air crews and their families, in particular during layovers.

IFALPA and all its Member Associations around the globe are constantly examining all flight crew transportation and accommodation issues that come to their attention, and will continue to work alongside Governments and Operators to protect air crews against security threats. IFALPA will also raise the matter with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to ensure that international Standards and Recommended Practices provide the necessary basis for the highest security regulations worldwide, in the framework of Annex 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

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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