



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' ASSOCIATIONS**

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION



28 September 2007

IFATCA - ITF JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Brazil failing to address aviation safety one year after midair collision

As the 36th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) concludes it marks one year since the tragic mid-air collision of a GOL Airlines passenger jet and a civilian executive jet over the Amazon jungle. This accident in Brazilian airspace and a subsequent one at Sao Paulo's Congonhas airport this summer dramatically illustrate a civil aviation system in a state of disrepair. We trust that deliberations at the ICAO assembly serve to remind us all of the seriousness of our commitment to the safety of the travelling public.

These regrettable incidents need not have happened. The reaction of Brazilian authorities, including the detention of pilots and prosecution of air traffic controllers, serves only to exacerbate the numerous problems of a system in chaos. The continued provision of air traffic services by unqualified personnel does little to demonstrate a commitment to internationally established standards.

We, as members of the aviation community, must insist that Brazil, as a Member State of ICAO, fulfils its obligations, which are of chief importance in air transport. Immediate action needs to be taken to address the very real problems inherent in Brazil's aviation system. Anything less will ensure that Brazilian airspace remains vulnerable, with the inevitable risk of continuous loss of lives.

Ingo Marowsky, Civil Aviation Section Secretary of the ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) added: "Brazil's aviation sector is in crisis. Its skies are in danger of descending into chaos, yet no one in government seems to be listening. Action must be taken now before more lives are lost."

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.

www.ifatca.org

ITF represents transport workers around the world and promotes their interests through global campaigning and solidarity.

www.itfglobal.org/civil-aviation/index.cfm