

Nearly 300 airlines banned from EU airspace

By JASPER FAKKERT
Epoch Times Staff

A total of 278 airliners are now banned from using European airspace under strict European air safety regulations. An additional airline was added to the list on Tuesday along with greater restrictions on Iran Air.

Airliners such as Ariana Afghan Airlines, Siem Reap Airways International from Cambodia, and all Philippine airlines are excluded from using European airspace.

"We cannot afford to compromise on air safety where we have evidence that air carriers are not performing safe operations, or where regulators fail in their obligation to enforce safety standards," Siim Kallas, vice president of the European Commission responsible for transport said in a news release on Tuesday.

The European Commission, Europe's executive body, announced on Tuesday it had placed an additional carrier from Suriname—a Dutch-speaking South American country sandwiched between French Guiana and Guyana—to its banned list in addition to expanding restrictions on Iran air.

Suriname airliner Blue Wing Airlines was banned after a series of accidents and deficiencies found during ramp inspections of its aircraft, according to the commission.

In May this year, a Blue Wing AN-28 aircraft crashed in a forested area in Eastern Suriname on a domestic flight between Godo Holo and Paramaribo. Both crew members and all six passengers died in the crash making it the third Blue Wing plane to crash.

An expansion of operating restrictions on Iran Air was supported unanimously by the Air Safety Committee after a visit to Iran earlier this year. Iran Air's fleet of Airbus A-320, Boeing B-727, and B-747 planes have been excluded from European airspace.

Iran airplanes that are still allowed into European airspace will be closely monitored.

While previously almost all Indonesian airliners had been barred by from European airspace, two Indonesian air carriers, Metro Batavia and Indonesia Air Asia, were removed from the list.

Seven Indonesian air carriers are now allowed access to European airspace while 45 have been denied.

Former Ukraine leaders warn IMF not to issue \$15 billion loan

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"Tymoshenko and Yushchenko were once close allies and national heroes during the 2004 Orange Revolution that resulted in pro-Western Yushchenko becoming president. Their alliance was broken due to a disagreement over power. The once-close allies then became embroiled in endless arguments resulting in stagnating political and economic conditions in the country. Yanukovich won the presidency last February thereby ousting the former Orange Revolution heroes.

Last week, the IMF agreed to give Ukraine a \$15.89 billion loan to support economic reforms. The decision came directly after Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Ukraine on July 2.

Ukraine had previously received a \$17.37 billion loan from the IMF, but it was suspended because of violations of IMF austerity rules. Ukraine's ailing economy slowed by 15 percent last year during the global economic crisis.



Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko addresses Parliament in Kiev, Ukraine, on March 3. Tymoshenko asked the International Monetary Fund to not provide Ukraine with a \$15 billion loan over concerns of misuse of the funds. SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Poland to hand over suspected Israeli spy

SPY CONTINUED FROM P1

"The court did not decide whether Brodsky committed the crime for which he is under investigation. The court only checked whether the extradition request fulfils the formal requirements and whether the suspect is correctly identified," Talkiewicz said.

The court said Brodsky, an Israeli citizen, had three days to appeal the verdict. The suspect's lawyer did not say whether an appeal would be launched.

"My client can be handed over to German judicial authorities within the framework of judicial procedures over the following matters: falsification of documents and using false documents," Brodsky's lawyer, Krzysztof Stepinski, told reporters immediately after the ruling.

"But the court did not take into consideration the German extradition request over participation in activities for foreign spy services," Stepinski said.

Mahmoud al-Mabhouth, one of the founders of the military wing of a Palestinian Islamist group, was found dead in a Dubai hotel on January 20.

Dubai Police say the murder was carried out by a Hamas hit squad. However, Israel has said there is no evidence of this.

Germany issued an international arrest warrant for Brodsky several

weeks ago, and he was arrested on June 4 at Warsaw's Frederic Chopin airport.

Shortly after the murder took place, Dubai Police released extensive CCTV footage detailing the movements of the suspected killers and submitted a long list of suspects to Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organization.

When it became clear that many of those on the list had no involvement in the crime, authorities around the world began to investigate how passports of their citizens had been fraudulently obtained.

Israeli diplomats in Britain, Ireland, and Australia were expelled over the affair.

Dubai Police chief Lt. Gen. Dahi Khalfan Tamim pointed the finger firmly at the Israeli spy agency Mossad.

In a recent interview with the English-language newspaper The National, Tamim said it was only a matter of time until the suspects involved in the killing were caught.

"This arrest is the first in a series which will bring the case forward," he said.

"I believe strongly that the suspects will be caught sooner or later. Their pictures and names are all around border posts across the world and they are intensively pursued by the international police community."

Washington welcomes Israel's easing of Gaza restrictions

By GENEVIEVE LONG
Epoch Times Staff

JERUSALEM—The cloud of tension that has dogged Israel in recent months is lifting after Jerusalem announced this week details of its eased restrictions on goods entering the Gaza Strip.

The announcement was greeted warmly by Washington. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met President Barack Obama at the White House on Tuesday, after which Obama stated that the bond between the United States and Israel is "unbreakable."

Obama commended Netanyahu's government for allowing more goods into Gaza. "We've seen real progress on the ground," he said in a statement.

The president added that his administration's position is that compromise between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) is the key to moving forward.

"We believe that there is a way to make sure that the people of Gaza are able to prosper economically, while Israel is able to maintain its legitimate security needs in not allowing missiles and weapons to get to Hamas," he said.

Netanyahu focused more generally on peace between the Israelis and Palestinians and the path to achieve that.

"I think at the end of the day, peace is the best option for all of us, and I think we have a unique opportunity and a unique time to do it," he said.

Netanyahu also reiterated that he is ready for direct peace talks with the Palestinians.

"I think it's high time to begin direct talks. I think with the help of President Obama, [Palestinian Authority] President Abbas and myself should engage in direct talks to reach a political settlement of peace, coupled with security and prosperity."

As Netanyahu prepared to go to Washington, the Israeli government announced details of its eased restrictions for Gaza. The restrictions deal with the transfer of goods and materials going into Gaza.

During a press conference on Monday in Israel, details of a June 20 Israeli Cabinet decision to liberalize the system for allowing civilian goods into Gaza were described to the press.

Foreign Ministry Director General Ambassador Yossi Gal and Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories Major General Eitan Dangot explained the new standards.

Gal opened his statement by emphasizing the ongoing campaign to get Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit released, calling on the international community to join the campaign. Shalit was kidnapped by Hamas four years ago and has been held captive since.

A massive, national grassroots campaign in Israel is being led by his family on the anniversary of his capture to pressure the government to secure his release. Amid pressure from the international community to ease restrictions on Gaza, the Israeli government has repeatedly raised Shalit's situation in connection with updates on the easing of restrictions.

"On a day like this we should all remember one person, Gilad Shalit, now four years in captivity," said Gal in his comments, released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on their website.

"I think that the entire world should call and act to, in the words of the Quartet statement of June 21, put an end to this deplorable detention of Gilad Shalit and to demand of Hamas 'to immediately remedy the situation.'"

The Israeli Cabinet's list of items prohibited from entering Gaza includes weapons, weapons materials, and dual-use items. Authorization was expanded for construction materials for PA-approved projects under international supervision. Crossing operations were also expanded to make room for more goods entering Gaza. The Cabinet also stated their intent to work with the PA to authorize and implement the measures.

An Israeli non-profit organization called Gisha, which states on its website that it works to protect the freedom of movement of Palestinians, particularly Gaza residents, strongly opposes the new measures on Gaza.

"There can be no economic recovery unless Israel ends its ban on



Palestinian workers inspect trucks carrying supplies after it arrived in Rafah through the Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel and the southern Gaza Strip on July 6, as Israel gave the go-ahead for the international community to import construction materials into the Hamas-run Gaza Strip. SAID KHATIB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

manufacturers in Gaza exporting finished products," Gisha said in statement issued on Monday, adding that Israel's true policy is to cripple the Gaza economy and keep it separated from the West Bank.

"There can be no healthy, intact Palestinian society and no two-state solution unless Israel allows Palestinians to travel between Gaza and the West Bank."

Israel's official position has always been that materials and equipment considered dangerous to Israel if they fell into the wrong hands include a wide variety of items that

must be prohibited.

The items include various chemicals usable in the production of explosives, including certain fertilizers, composite materials, hunting knives, optical equipment, certain navigation aids, parachutes, gliders, non-motorized airborne vehicles, fireworks, avionics, flight control equipment, missile-related computer technologies, as well as other items.

Regarding projects in cooperation with U.N. delegations, USAID organizations, European countries, and the PA in the coming months, Maj.

Gen. Dangot said the Israeli government anticipates 31 new projects will be approved by government authorities, bringing the total number of projects in the Gaza Strip to 45.

They include projects in education, health, infrastructure in sewage and water, and eventually housing.

Dangot also stated that the Israeli government plans to form closer relations with the PA and increase their involvement in activities within Gaza. He added that the Israeli side had already met with the Palestinians.

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