

Beat: Politics

## Crash of Flight Air Algeria AH507

### Tragedy that affects France and Algeria

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**USPA NEWS** - "Since we have learned with great emotion the tragedy that struck our fellow passengers traveling on Flight 5017 AH Air Algeria. All government departments are mobilized to locate the device, and shed light on facts and support by assistance to families of the disappeared".

Thus says Laurent Fabius, French Minister of Foreign Affairs immediately after hearing the sad news of the crash in Mali. The Quai d'Orsay (Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris) did not need this disaster to shake the already tight schedule between the election of the new President of the Republic in Iraq, the case of the assassination of Finnish aid workers in Afghanistan, the resumption of Médecins Sans Frontières in the Akan in Burma, not to mention the management crisis in the Middle East, with the tragic bombings in Gaza, recently.

The flight AH 5017 of Air Algeria crashed in Mali, 40 minutes after taking off from the airport in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), towards Algiers on Thursday, July 24. All 116 passengers died, including 51 French, 6 crew members Spanish, twenty four from Burkina Faso, eight Lebanese, six Algerians, 6 Germans, two from Luxembourg, one Belgian, one Cameroonian, one Egyptian, one Malian, one Nigerian, one Romania, one Swiss and three Ukrainians.

Laurent Fabius said cautiously regarding an accident or attack "We must not exclude any hypothesis before all elements"

The minister immediately instructed all the departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, and in particular the crisis center and our embassies in Algeria, Burkina Faso and Mali to contribute by all means. France then has "deployed a French military detachment" said the Presidency "To secure the site and collect the first pieces of information."

The French Foreign Affairs ministry announced priorities and emergency measures :

"In Paris, a crisis center has been set up ad hoc 24 hours 24, as well as other French cities to support assistance to families of passengers and gather information about the drama:

1 - A crisis hotline available at 0033 1 43 17 56 46, was immediately opened. She received nearly 5,000 calls;

2 - all the families of our fellow passengers travelling onboard the aircraft were contacted;

3 - Two doctors, a psychologist and three officers of the Ministry of Health provide any assistance to families of missing persons;

4 - we connect with more than ten prefectures, to help close relatives of the victims.

Our ambassadors in Algiers, Bamako and Ouagadougou are mobilized and in constant contact with local authorities. The embassies of France in Ouagadougou and Bamako have opened hotlines centers.

### THE CAUSES OF THE CRASH :

The aircraft, whose wreckage was found (By the French military on Saturday) is totally disintegrated, "The device has been clearly identified, but its disintegrated state" officially precise the Presidency.

The Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve meanwhile, advanced a hypothesis "We believe that this aircraft crashed for reasons due to the bad weather but no hypothesis can not be rejected."

Indeed, experts, trying to dissect the situation and identify the causes of this tragedy, multiplying assumptions with the reserve that is needed in this case. The last calls of the pilot have told the control tower that he would change course because of the weather, hence the shift before disappearing from radar. In this tropical area, the experts explain that the rainy season is particularly marked by violent storms in the Sahel, where the temperature differences in this period are so strong that the shock pressure and temperature would have destabilized the device and its pilot.

On the other hand, some experts, including experienced pilots explain that given the state of the such disintegrated wreck, whose remains are concentrated in a small area (Less than 1km<sup>2</sup>) at the point of not even let show large chunks of cabins or suitcases, and no trace of the corpses could not be explained by only the conditions of severe thunderstorms. Debris are so difficult to analyse and exploit by the experts.

Moreover, we must remember that this area of Mali in particular is renowned for its dangerousness, where are housed (In the Mountains, favorable to camouflage) armed groups Islamists of AQIM (Al Qaida of North Africa). Military experts meanwhile, say it is difficult to reach an airplane above 10 000 meters, using missile or rocket launcher. Other assumptions hover about the diversion of aircraft by pirates on board, or even a bombe that would have been placed in the apparatus and escape the vigilance of security checks.

This altitude would have not allowed the passenger to make calls or send messages with their mobile phones, because aircraft are not equipped with a relay 3G/4G. The mathematician AK Dewdney, who had brought some answers during the September 11 attacks in New York in 2001, said meanwhile that the great mass of the metal device (Creates a barrier itself against the signals in flight at high altitude) which is no longer in contact with the ground, acts as a "Faraday cage". He concludes that it is impossible to make clear phone calls with cell phones from an airplane flight from 2100 m.

Calendar of coincidence or not, the agreement signed between Mali, Algeria for peace (Algiers Signed roadmap negotiations under the "process of Algiers" Thursday, 24 July).

France was the mediator between the UN and G5 countries of the Sahel to ensure peace in northern Mali. A ce sujet le ministre Français des Affaires étrangères avait exprimé sa satisfaction In this respect the French Foreign Minister expressed his satisfaction "I welcome the signing of the Algiers roadmap negotiations under the Algiers process. Its consensual adoption is a positive step towards the launch of peace talks scheduled for August. I pay tribute to the work of Algeria, the facilitation role was crucial to creating a climate conducive to reconciliation between the parties. I also welcome the close involvement and coordination with representatives of the international community and the states of G-5 of the Sahel. I get this day the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mali, Mr. Bert Koenders, who participated in the negotiations in Algiers, to make an accurate assessment of the situation.

Algeria has decreed three days of national mourning in memory of the victims of this tragedy, the interrogations are vague and complex for understanding what happened, leaving no living witness. The investigation is still in its beginning and is likely to face technical constraints of size, in this case.

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