



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' ASSOCIATIONS

360 St. Jacques, Suite 2002, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1P5 CANADA
Tel.: +1.514.866.7040, Fax: +1.514.866.7612, Email: office@ifatca.org

Montréal, 10/04/2021

Albania called to adhere to International Regulations and free three Air Traffic Controllers.

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) is extremely concerned with the latest developments that have been brought to our attention on the situation in Albania.

It is appalling to see Air Traffic Controllers being held in custody for performing their safety obligations under the Civil Aviation Regulations, and as expected by the international community who wish to safely travel through Albanian airspace.

IFATCA denounces the arrest and questioning of Air Traffic Controllers who have been performing in accordance with their licencing obligations, which is blatantly against European dialogue and international human rights practices.

The International Convention on Civil Aviation prohibits an air traffic controller from exercising the privileges of their licences and related ratings at any time when they are aware of any decrease in their medical fitness which might render them unable to safely and properly exercise these privileges. It is considered unsafe to have a person perform air traffic control that is physically or mentally impaired in any way, or unqualified and untrained for the position.

It is the obligation of the Service Provider to provide a safe and functional workplace environment that supports the personnel to perform these complex safety roles free from distraction and duress.

The Albanian authorities continue to have disregard for the safety critical nature of these roles.

During this critical time, medical and emergency flights, including delivery of vaccines, are normally facilitated by air traffic control.

IFATCA calls upon Albanian authorities to demonstrate and fulfil the obligation as expected under the Treaties, Conventions, Constitution and associated obligations they have signed up for, including the request for access to the European Union.

- 60 Years of Professional Involvement -

IFATCA has been representing air traffic controllers since 1961, with more than 50,000 members in over 130 countries.

Albanian authorities have taken an irresponsible gamble on safety and stability of the air traffic services over their territory and the Network by attempting to continue operations with unlicensed and unqualified staff to operate, masquerading as a safe and functional service. The risk associated with such actions should be considered unacceptable in any safety assessment, so this questions the independence of the safety management processes.

IFATCA urgently calls upon the Albanian authorities to reverse these actions and commence all possible dialogues to return to a working environment which provides the safe airspace that is expected of them.

Sincerely,



Duncan Auld
President and CEO
IFATCA



Frédéric Deleau
Acting Vice-President Europe
IFATCA