

**Press release June 8, 2009**

**For immediate release**

**Information to the victims families of Air France Flight AF 447 Air Disaster**

It is with deepest sorrow we have learned about the tragic air disaster with Flight AF 447.

Unfortunately it has come to our attention that the victims' families in air disasters like this immediately are approached by North American and Latin American lawyers with limited or no experience in aviation law or aviation accident investigation. Via private investigators they identify the victims' families; they contact them over the phone and even pay uninvited visits to the families homes.

Using the families despair and confusion after the accident, these lawyers and their associates feed the families incorrect information that in order to protect their rights they must immediately hire these lawyers.

What these lawyers are doing is highly unethical and in some countries even illegal. In the United States lawyers are prohibited during 45 days after the accident from contacting families directly following a tragedy like Flight 447.

The truth is that passengers' rights against the air carrier, Air France, are governed by the 1999 Montreal Convention and the Council Regulation (EC) No 2027/97 and Regulation (EC) No 889/2002. According to The Montreal Convention families have two years after the day of the accident before they have to take any legal action to protect their rights.

At this early point in time, it is unknown what happened to the aircraft, an Airbus 330-200. If there was a technical problem for which the manufacturer Airbus or any of its subcomponent manufacturers could be held legally liable in the United States, the statute of limitation in the vast majority of States is two years, and in only a few one year.

In the light of the above there is therefore no immediate need to take any legal action against anyone until the facts of the accident have cleared. To the contrary, filing an action in court at this early stage could seriously jeopardize and substantially reduce any rightful claim by families. There is no immediate need to hire any alien lawyer, neither from North America or Latin America or from elsewhere.

If an offer of settlement would be presented to you by Air France or any other defendant involved in this air disaster, in order to protect your rights, you need to seek proper legal advice before accepting such an offer.

Please accept our deepest condolences.

**PEOPIL**

**Pan-European Organization of Personal Injury lawyers**

**Antoinette Collignon-Smit Sibinga**

**President**

**Contact:**

**Antoinette Collignon, President, PEOPIL**

**Tel: + 31 20 6732199**

**Fax: + 31 20 6758163**

**Email: [collignon@beeradvocaten.nl](mailto:collignon@beeradvocaten.nl)**

**Or**

**Dr. Wolfgang Resch MBA**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**PEOPIL**

**Imperial House**

**31 Temple Street**

**Birmingham**

**B2 5DB**

**England, UK**

**Tel +44 (0)121 643 49 62**

**Fax +44 (0)121 643 94 05**

**Web Site: <http://www.peopil.com>**

**Email: [wolfgang.resch@peopil.com](mailto:wolfgang.resch@peopil.com)**