

MEA's reply to Reuters

Since its establishment, Middle East Airlines (MEA) has maintained a strong and proven safety record, consistently ranking one of the best and most reputable international operators in terms of safety performance over the past six decades. Throughout decades of political, economic, and security challenges affecting Lebanon, MEA has continued to maintain operational continuity, passenger safety, international connectivity, and compliance with applicable aviation safety standards. The safety of passengers, crew members, and the public remains, and will continue to remain, MEA's highest priority.

1 - Keeping Lebanon connected to the outside world:

The continuity of access to the airport has been of critical importance. In times such as these, it constitutes Lebanon primary gateway to the outside world for passengers, for goods, and for all essential flows that sustain economic and social life. The preservation of this vital artery has made a tangible difference under particularly challenging circumstances.

At the same time, considering the current situation around Beirut, MEA's top management remains in constant and close contact with Top government officials, the Lebanese Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA), and international diplomatic missions to obtain firsthand information regarding developments and possible scenarios, we have been assured that the airport should remain outside the conflict zone.

While the security situation can evolve, we remain in close and continuous monitoring of developments along the Lebanese borders, the Southern Suburb of Beirut, and the surrounding airspace. Ongoing risk assessments and mitigation measures are being conducted at all times, this enables us to better continue assessing potential risks and implementing measures to safeguard our operations.

Flights during the military actions were all conducted based on risk assessment developed by MEA, LCAA and the Lebanese government in coordinating with western embassies. For your information, the son of the chairman of MEA and the son of the of the chairman of LCAA are both captains at MEA and flew through out the period amongst all MEA's loyal and competent pilots who decided to continue serving Lebanon during these challenging times.

2 Supporting Beirut International airport to remain operational:

During Lebanon's economic crisis and the severe devaluation of the national currency, the real value of salaries across critical airport and aviation services including Air Traffic Controller decreased by more than 90% to less than 100 USD per month. In coordination with the Lebanese government, MEA provided financial support intended solely to preserve the operational functionality of Lebanon's national aviation infrastructure and ensure continuity of service for the travelling public during exceptional circumstances.

These support arrangements do not affect the independence, authority, or oversight responsibilities of the Lebanese civil aviation regulatory authorities. The LCAA President, Council members, and auditors, are not beneficiaries of MEA's support arrangements. Such personnel are financed through

the applicable ICAO Technical Cooperation framework and remain outside MEA's financial support measures.

3 – IFALPA letter

MEA has reviewed the IFALPA letter and MEA categorically rejects the unfounded allegations, and conclusions contained therein. These allegations are not supported by verified facts, or objective operational evidence.

It should also be noted that IFALPA is not a regulator. It does not certify airlines, issue operating approvals, conduct regulatory enforcement, or determine whether an airline is compliant. Those responsibilities belong to competent civil aviation authorities.

MEA operates under continuous national and international oversight, including recurrent audits, operational approvals, inspections, and compliance assessments. In addition, the Lebanese Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA) conducted an oversight activity on MEA during the period from 18 May to 1 June. The outcome of this oversight activity confirmed MEA's compliance with applicable regulatory and operational safety requirements and confirms that the allegations raised are not substantiated and are largely speculative.

MEA further rejects any allegation that pilots are subjected to retaliation for raising concerns or speaking up through established reporting channels. Training assignments, proficiency assessments, line monitoring, supervised flying, mentoring, simulator evaluations, and operational supervision are conducted in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements, company procedures, operational needs, and professional standards. Such actions should not be misconstrued as disciplinary or retaliatory measures in the absence of supporting facts.

MEA remains fully committed to the principles of safety, transparency, professional accountability, Just Culture reporting, and regulatory compliance.

The airline will continue to cooperate with all competent authorities and stakeholders.

Best Regards,

Public Relations Department

Middle East Airlines – Air Liban