



**The Chairman
Airports Authority of India
Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan
New Delhi – 110003**

Misleading reports on ATC

Sir,

Air Traffic Controllers' Guild wishes to draw your kind attention to the reports in the print and electronic media post the tragic accident at Calicut Airport. Pending investigation and without going into the merit of the case, we can firmly submit that ATCOs on duty have done a commendable job and the rules, regulations and procedures were never flouted. However, there has been misleading reporting by media which has hurt the ATC community morally, especially when there is no official counter to these reports which are aimed at diverting the attention of public.

The news telecast in Asianet and other channels appears to be a deliberate attempt by media to tarnish the image of ATCOs and ATC profession in India. There have been several such incorrect and misleading news items in the past, both in the electronic and print media, aimed at projecting a very poor image of ATC in India, even though ATCOs in India are performing a commendable job despite of the phenomenal growth of traffic. There have been several accolades from the flying community for the controllers in the past as well.

It is learnt that in the present case the controller has taken absolutely immaculate action and at no point of time the decision making process differed from standard ICAO norms. Wrong reporting was made by the channel(s) in two consecutive days. The controllers are thoroughly demoralized, agitated and shocked due to the fact that appropriate actions are not being taken against such influenced and erratic reporters. They are going scot-free because Airports Authority of India has never tried to take any legal action against these erring reporters.

ATC Guild (India) believes that, besides giving rejoinders, unless deterrent measures like filing defamation cases etc. against such Reporters are initiated; the high-profile profession will be demoralized by both print and electronic media. These malafide attempts by few are destined to shatter the image of the ATCOs in the eyes of public.

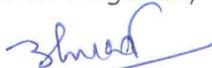
ATC Guild demands that:

1. Legal action/defamation case for tarnishing the image of the organization/profession shall be initiated against the erring reporter.

2. Identify the so-called sources involved in this racket, especially those in ally with the reporters.
3. Appoint a Spokesperson to brief Public through media about the veracity of any such reports in the press.
4. Media interaction exercises/Press briefings be organized at regular intervals to enhance relationship with them both at CHQ/RHQ level.
5. In case any channel/Newspapers reporting against organization or any profession in AAI, Airport Directors shall report the matter to Competent Authority immediately and counter as appropriate.

At this stage we feel belittled and unless stringent actions/corrective measures as suggested above are taken to stop these types of malicious campaign against ATCOs, morale of ATCOs in India is destined to take a shape which will not be in the greater interest of safe, orderly and expeditious flow of traffic.

With Regards,



(Atok Yadav)
General Secretary