



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION  
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**Phil Boyer**  
President

November 21, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary  
Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) representing 410,000 US pilots, requests your intervention in securing the release of two American pilots currently being detained by Brazilian authorities investigating the crash of Gol Airlines Flight #1907.

These US citizens are pilots for Excelair and were involved in the September 29, 2006 mid-air collision between a GOL Airlines Boeing 737 and an Embraer Legacy business jet. To date, the pilots have been detained for more than seven weeks without criminal charges or explanation, which is in violation of international aviation treaties. It appears from media reports that the accident investigation could take another ten months to complete, placing these US pilots in jeopardy of being detained indefinitely.

AOPA is not taking a position on the accident or the investigative process; however, it is critical that due process be followed. These US citizen pilots should be treated fairly under the law, and the US State Department must take action to obtain their release and their return to the US.

AOPA urges you to intervene with the Brazilian government to facilitate the release of these Americans to allow them to return home safely.

Sincerely,

Phil Boyer