

# El Al plane crash in Amsterdam 1992

On October 4, 1992, an El Al Boeing 747-200 cargo plane crashed in Amsterdam Bijlmermeer. Officially, there were 43 victims (39 residents, 3 crew members and a passenger) and dozens of injured, some seriously. The crash still receives a lot of attention in books, publications, news media, exhibitions, documentaries, TV series and at the yearly commemoration.

## Some remarkable facts

1. In the years after the plane crash, also a 'government crash' took place. The Treaty of Chicago and the unclear payload made the investigation murky. The lack of information caused great distrust in the government and in the aviation industry. It caused also many conspiracies.
2. After the crash, critical citizens and some news media rapidly acted as investigators and were seen as an alternative to the restrictive information departments and to those who adhered the government. News media reporters provoked with daring news. Sometimes it helped to get to the real truth. Of course, it also helped to increase the number of readers and tv viewers.
3. One year after the crash, it was reported that parts of the Boeing contained depleted uranium. Panic among citizens about the word 'uranium'. Fear for some even today. The ash from burnt depleted uranium can indeed be very long time harmful. Official speakers have to be cautious to sensitivities and fear of the unknown. Above all honesty and transparency are most important.
4. Seven years after the crash, a parliamentary inquiry was held. The conclusions of the inquiry were strong, but mainly ignored. A Dutch Safety Board was established and a broad health investigation was conducted for 4,800 concerned residents, firefighters and other emergency workers at the crash site. Result: 1 recovery worker with traces of depleted uranium and 12 people with an autoimmune disease. Some citizens still cause the crash and payload for their illness. Post traumatic stress syndrome (ptsd) can even be more intense after many years.
5. Due to the ongoing unrest, the House of Representatives has unanimously demanded in 2023 that the secret archive (for 70 years!) of the plane crash in Amsterdam have to be released. Especially information that is important for people who are worried about their illness should be released with priority. The organization ACOI, which is committed to a transparent government, delivered a report with valuable advices for a possible partly release of the secret archive. Also the Treaty of Chicago needs an update concerning health related information.

It is commendable that ICAO organizes the Symposium on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims. A number of journalists and citizens are still investigating the cause of the crash in Amsterdam. So far, 32 years after the accident, dozens of residents blame their health problems, both physical and mental, for the accident. They receive psychosocial support from the government and several organizations who also intend to create a 'Treaty of Amsterdam' that serves all the interests of the affected citizens. Hopefully the 'Treaty of Amsterdam' can be realized quickly with broad support.

## Contact persons with combined 96 years of plane crash experience

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