



2 AIR FRANCE FLIGHTS DIVERTED DUE TO BOMB THREATS

News / Airlines



Two Air France flights headed from the United States to Paris were diverted due to bomb threats, officials said.

Both flights landed safely Tuesday night.

Flight 65, en route from Los Angeles to Paris, was diverted to Salt Lake City after a bomb threat was called in from the ground, a U.S. government official said.

The official did not know if anyone was arrested and was not aware of any unruly passengers on board.

Shortly afterward, Air France Flight 55 from Washington's Dulles International Airport to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris was diverted to an airport in Halifax, Nova Scotia - also due to a bomb

threat, a government source said.

The source did not know if the same person called in both threats.

"Several law enforcement agencies are working ... to determine the nature of the threats which caused the aircraft to divert," FBI Special Agent Todd Palmer of the Salt Lake City division said.

No U.S. military aircraft were scrambled in either incident, NORAD spokesman Preston Schlachter said.

"Diversion of flights are the most draconian response to a bomb threat," CNN national security analyst Juliette Kayyem said.

Officers searched the plane that landed in Salt Lake City and rendered it safe, Salt Lake City Airport Police Chief Craig Vargo said.

He said airport officials have turned the plane back over to Air France, which was preparing the plane for departure.

Passengers Questioned by FBI

Trevor Moran was on Flight 65, headed from Los Angeles to Paris to shoot a music video.

He said the pilot told passengers the plane had to make an emergency landing.

"There were huge buses when we landed that they loaded us all on," he told CNN.

"Everyone on the flight is waiting in this lobby. Nobody knows what's going on."

Keith Rosso, who was on the same flight, said he had just finished dinner when the staff abruptly took trays away and said the plane was landing due to 'unsafe flying conditions.'

Rosso said the FBI was interviewing passengers on Flight 65.

As for Flight 55, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said the plane and luggage will be searched for explosives, the agency tweeted.

"This Is Terrorism"

Even though the flights landed safely, CNN law enforcement analyst Jonathan Gilliam said there are reasons for serious concern.

"One thing that has to be clear is that we may call this a hoax, but the reality is, terrorism -- which we see going on in France right now, and here -- is a tactic used to affect a psychological or political change on a community. And that is what this is," Gilliam said.

"It may be a hoax, as far as a bomb threat. But this is terrorism."

On Edge

The bomb threats on Paris-bound flights came four days after a wave of deadly attacks terrorized the French capital.

At least 129 people were killed in an onslaught of bombings and shootings Friday night. French

President Francois Hollande declared a state of emergency.

The terror group ISIS claimed responsibility. Afterward, French warplanes have launched waves of airstrikes on ISIS' de facto capital of Raqqa, in northern Syria.

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