

Spring 1993

Dear Editor

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The accompanying story and photo indicate a need to further educate airport workers in less developed economies of the world and perhaps the need for legislation regarding aircraft markings to prevent such accidental deaths. One would suggest putting danger signs in red in areas that may attract potential stowaways but my pose lethal danger if entered. Such areas would include undercarriage bays--nose and main--cargo holds and other access doors on aircraft.

Funds for this need not come from the airlines but from governments which are ultimately responsible for basic education and the safety of its citizens.

Sincerely,
/s/ Capt. Philip A. Ikomi, Ph.D.
P.O. Box 2055
Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
West Africa

Editor's Note:

This letter was accompanied by a newspaper article (by Charles Oni, Daily Times, February 26, 1993, front page), and a newspaper photograph of the dead man still in the wheel.

The next column shows the headline and some excerpts from the article.

DESPERATE EMIGRANT FOUND DEAD IN EGYPTIAN PLANE

A desperate attempt by an Ivorien to emigrate from Abidjan by illegally sneaking into the nose compartment of the Egyptian national airline, Egypt Air, has resulted in his death.

His strangulated body was discovered at the Gate E52 pack of the Murtala Mohammed International Airport yesterday afternoon.

An Egypt Air ground staff had, as part of normal routine, opened the nose compartment of the aircraft when he suddenly noticed the dangling squeezed body inside the front wheel.

On inspection, the suspected desperado was found stiff dead. Unknown to him, the front wheel was hydraulically powered, as a result of which his body was squeezed when the wheel forcefully relapsed into the bay of the aircraft after takeoff at Abidjan.