

United Nations says all must respect safety of civilian flights



United Nations, July 25 (RHC)-- The United Nations has stressed that all countries must respect the safety of civilian air travel, referring to the recent harassment of an Iranian passenger plane by a pair of American warplanes.

“As a matter of principle, the safety of civilian air travel should be respected by all,” said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric during a daily press briefing on Friday, when he was asked about the incident.

On Thursday night, U.S. warplanes operating illegally over Syrian airspace, conducted aggressive maneuvers dangerously close to an Iranian Mahan Air flight over Syria’s al-Tanf region. Mahan Air’s Flight 1152 had taken off from Tehran and was en route to the Lebanese capital, Beirut, when the incident happened.

Iran strongly condemned the harassment of its Beirut-bound passenger plane by two U.S. F-15 fighter jets, vowing to lodge a complaint over the “unlawful” act at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Dujarric stressed that the world body had “no specific information on that incident” yet, adding that what he said about the safety of civilian air travel was “just a principled position.”

“I don’t have any [information], at this point, we don’t have any specific information on this incident,” he further said. “I checked with my colleagues in Montreal at ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization]. They have not received anything as of yet,” Dujarric added.

In response, the US Central Command claimed that a single F-15 fighter jet had made a “visual inspection” of the Iranian airliner “in accordance with international standards, supposedly to ensure the safety of coalition personnel” at the military base in al-Tanf.

The Civil Aviation Organization of Iran urged the ICAO to immediately address the move, which is “a clear violation of the international law and the aviation standards and regulations.”

Without any permission from Damascus, the U.S. has been operating in the Arab country since 2014 under the pretext of fighting the Daesh terrorist group. The U.S., however, continues its occupation even as Syria defeated the Takfiri terrorists in late 2017.

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