



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

MAR 07 2017

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator dated October 31, 2016, regarding your concerns about sexual assault aboard commercial airlines. We are sending identical responses to the other Members who joined in your letter. We apologize for our delay in responding to your letter.

The Department of Justice (the Department) is actively engaged in the *criminal* prosecution of violations of the various statutes prohibiting behavior that constitutes *sexual assault* on airplanes. Some examples are listed below:


- In 2015, Michael James Pascal was sentenced to 27 months in prison, following his conviction at trial for abusive sexual contact with a minor in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States. *United States v. Pascal*, 610 F3d.Appx. 791 (10th Cir. 2015) and *United States v. Pascal*, No. 13-CR-763 (D. Utah 2013).
- In 2015, Nadeem Mehmood Quraishi was sentenced to 24 months incarceration following convictions for abusive sexual contact and assault in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States. *United States v. Quraishi*, No. 15-CR-598 (E.D.N.Y. 2015).
- In 2015, Marcelo De Jesumaria was sentenced to a term of one year (six months of incarceration and six months of home confinement) following his conviction by a jury of abusive sexual contact in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States. *United States v. Jesumaria*, No. 14-CR-688BRO (C.D.Cal. 2014).
- In 2013, Srinivasa S. Erramilli, a 46-year-old software consultant, was convicted by a jury of abusive sexual conduct within the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States, and sentenced to nine months in federal prison. The court noted that a custodial sentence was necessary to deter Erramilli and others from invading an individual's bodily integrity and to ensure that victims of abusive sexual contact will be heard. *United States v. Erramilli*, No. 11-CR-778 (N.D.Ill. 2011).

In addition, the Department, including the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, is currently working with the FAA, the Department of Transportation, the Department of State, and other stakeholders, to identify and develop best practices to assist flight crews in supporting survivors and taking steps necessary to hold perpetrators accountable.

Ensuring victims' rights, as well as ensuring their access to victim services and compensation, is a high priority for OVC which is working closely on this issue with the Department's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The Department is committed to further developing and implementing victim-centered strategies to better meet the needs of victims and extend resources to state, local, and tribal agencies that ensure victims receive the services and justice they deserve.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Samuel R. Ramer
Acting Assistant Attorney General

cc: Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration