

## **PRESS BRIEFING FOR SIXTH BARS!** **JULY 28, 2016**

### **1. Objectives of ACAA**

- Strive to make Pakistani skies safer for air travelers by persuading the regulators and carriers to ensure adherence/ compliance with international safety standards.
- Advocate, promote and protect the rights of air travelers in Pakistan.
- Provide a platform to air crash victims & their families to address their grievances and to safeguard their legal rights.
- Campaign for establishing an independent and autonomous investigation authority in Pakistan in accordance with globally accepted practices/ standards.
- Campaign for appropriate legislation in Pakistan for grant of fair compensation to air crash victims according to international standards.
- Act as a watchdog for compliance of air safety standards and passenger rights in Pakistan.
- Form a benevolent trust for assistance to deserving families of air crashes.

### **2. Achievements so Far**

- Issues of flight safety raised at various forums including higher judiciary, parliament, civil society and media etc.
- Due to efforts of the group, investigation report made public by CAA for the first time in aviation history of Pakistan.
- Carriage by Air Act - 2012 promulgated raising the operators' first tier liability from PKR 39,500/- to PKR 5 million.
- Separate Aviation Division was created separating it from Ministry of Defense.
- Compelled the carrier (AirBlue) to erect a memorial at Islamabad. (Again a first precedence in Pakistan).
- The Association is now duly registered with Registrar, Joint Stock Companies Sindh, Karachi under Societies Registration Act – 1860.
- The Chairman of the Group represented ACAG at the 38<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICAO at Montreal, Canada in 2013, giving it global acceptance.
- Became a founding member of Air Crash Victims' Family Federation International (ACVFFI) in 2015 which is duly recognized by ICAO.
- The Chairman of ACAA attended the workshop on "Assistance to Victims of Air Accidents and their Families" organized by European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) in Spain on 09-10 June 2016 and made a presentation on "challenges to Aviation Safety and Passenger Rights in Pakistan". The workshop was attended by 68 delegates from 14 ECAC member states.
- The Chairman has now been invited to represent ACAA at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICAO at Montreal, Canada in September and present a working paper on different aspects in collaboration with ACVFFI.

### **3. The Way Forward**

- Continue to campaign for establishment of an independent safety investigation board as a constitutional body which should not be answerable to the CAA.
- Advocate for removing the disparity in the Carriage by Air Act -2012, of first tier liability between domestic and international travelers.
- Advocate for appropriate legislation for speedily settlement of compensation cases.
- Persuade various concerned departments to develop appropriate SOPs to deal with air accidents emergencies.
- Recognition of victim families associations as an important stakeholder by the state, carriers and various other concerned bodies with regard to flight safety and passenger rights.
- Continue to mobilize civil society, media and victims' families to join hands to raise awareness level about flight safety, passenger rights and victims assistance.