

Synopsis

Date and time

Thursday 25 December 2003
at 13 h 59

Aircraft

Boeing 727-223 registered 3X-GDO

Site of accident

Cotonou Cadjèhoun Aerodrome
(Republic of Benin)

Owner

Financial Advisory Group
Sharjah (United Arab Emirates)

Nature of flight

Public transport of passengers
Scheduled flight GIH 141
Conakry - Cotonou - Beirut - Dubai

Operator

Union des Transports Africains

Persons on board

Crew 10
Passengers 150, including six babies

Summary

On 25 December 2003, arriving from Conakry (Guinea), the Boeing 727-223 registered 3X-GDO undertaking flight GIH 141 to Kufra (Libya) and Beirut (Lebanon) and Dubai (United Arab Emirates) stopped over at Cotonou. During takeoff the airplane, overloaded in an anarchic manner, was not able to climb at the usual rate and struck an airport building located a hundred and eighteen meters past the runway end on the extended runway centerline, crashed onto the beach and ended up in the ocean.

The government of the Republic of Benin set up a National Commission of Inquiry to shed light on the causes of the accident. The President of the Commission delegated the technical investigation to the BEA, the French aircraft accident investigation bureau, and invited the States involved to nominate Accredited Representatives to participate in the investigation, in accordance with the provisions of Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention.