
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
General Authority of Civil Aviation

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Secretary General
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Montreal, Canada

Dear Madam,

I wish to refer to State Letter AS8/5-18/17, dated 13 February 2018, regarding the mechanisms required to reduce the risks of laser attacks against civil aircraft, urging states to highlight the legal provisions recently developed and implemented to address this issue, and report on the progress made in enforcing relevant legislation and penalties.

I would like to inform you that the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia set up a committee composed of competent authorities, to study this problem and prepare a technical report that highlights the hazards of laser beams targeting aircraft and control towers, especially in the vicinity of airports. The committee presented a clear vision and outlined the mechanisms required to minimize the risks associated with such incidents. Legal measures taken to address this issue include:

First: Enforcement of Civil Aviation Law, which include articles criminalizing all acts that jeopardize the safety of aircraft and passengers onboard, including Article (54) of the same Law, which states that perpetrators of acts that jeopardize the safety of aircraft and passengers onboard shall be penalized, as well as Article (169), which provides for "Penalties for violation where no penalty is prescribed."

Second: Prosecution of perpetrators of laser attacks against aircraft and imposing appropriate penalties.

Hence, as a result of implementing the above-mentioned measures as well as numerous preventive actions taken by GACA in this regard, the number of reports has significantly dropped recently, thanks to the ongoing efforts aimed at circumventing such incidents that compromise the safety of air transport. Only six reports were received from the beginning of 2016 to the end of February 2018, compared to 107 reports in 2013. The number is expected to drop even further in the future in light of the continued endeavors to end the problem.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.