# Fatal Turbulence on Singapore Airlines Flight Raises Concerns over Flight Safety Protocols



On May 20, 2023, Singapore Airlines Flight SQ321 from London to Singapore encountered severe turbulence over the Irrawaddy Basin in Myanmar, leading to a sudden altitude drop of 178 feet in fewer than five seconds. The turbulence resulted in the death of a 73-year-old passenger, Geoffrey Kitchen, and injuries to dozens of others. Some passengers sustained severe spinal and brain injuries, with 28 still receiving medical treatment in Bangkok as of Tuesday.

A preliminary investigation, involving Singapore’s Transport Safety Investigation Bureau, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Aviation Administration, and Boeing, attributed the injuries to rapid changes in gravitational force. The Ministry of Transport of Singapore confirmed that the investigation is ongoing.

In response, Singapore Airlines stated it is fully cooperating with authorities and covering medical expenses for the injured passengers. The turbulence issue, attributed by scientists to changing weather patterns due to climate change, is reportedly increasing in frequency on many flight paths. Another incident involving Qatar Airways on May 27 saw similar turbulence, resulting in injuries to 12 people.

The findings highlight the potential risks associated with unexpected severe turbulence and emphasize ongoing efforts to enhance flight safety protocols.