# Fatal Turbulence Incident on Singapore Airlines Flight SQ321 Prompts International Investigation



On May 21, 2024, Singapore Airlines Flight SQ321, a Boeing 777 en route from London's Heathrow Airport to Singapore, encountered severe turbulence over the Andaman Sea, leading to the death of British passenger Geoffrey Kitchen and injuries to dozens of others. The aircraft descended rapidly from 37,000 feet to 31,000 feet within three minutes before making an emergency landing at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport. The incident left 20 people in intensive care, with a total of over 80 requiring hospitalization.

Initial reports suggest that a weather radar with known issues, identified as the Honeywell RDR-4000, may have been in use. This radar system has a history of performance complaints despite updates meant to address these concerns. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, along with other international experts, have joined the investigation led by Singapore's Transport Safety Investigation Bureau to determine the cause of the turbulence and assess the radar system's functionality.

Flight data indicated severe thunderstorms in the area, causing the sudden and extreme turbulence. Singapore Airlines CEO Goh Choon Phong confirmed that the airline has provided medical assistance and transportation for passengers, with a majority safely reaching Singapore. The comprehensive probe aims to provide clarity on the circumstances leading to this fatal incident.