# Singapore Airlines Flight SQ321 Encounters Severe Turbulence Resulting in Emergency Landing in Bangkok



On May 21, 2024, a Singapore Airlines flight, SQ321, traveling from London’s Heathrow Airport to Singapore encountered severe turbulence over the Andaman Sea, resulting in a rapid descent of 6,000 feet in approximately three minutes. The Boeing 777, carrying 211 passengers and 18 crew members, made an emergency landing in Bangkok, Thailand.

The turbulence left more than 100 passengers injured, with 20 remaining in intensive care as of May 23. Spinal operations are needed for many of the most severely injured, including six Britons, six Malaysians, three Australians, two Singaporeans, and individuals from Hong Kong, New Zealand, and the Philippines. A 73-year-old British man, Geoff Kitchen, died, likely from a heart attack during the incident.

Passengers described the event as terrifying, with loose items flying around and serious injuries occurring as individuals were thrown around the cabin. The aircraft was diverted to Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi Airport, where local hospitals, including Samitivej Srinakarin Hospital, provided medical care to the injured. Specialists from nearby hospitals were mobilized to assist with the treatment due to the scale of the injuries.

Separately, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) revealed a potential flaw in Boeing 777 aircraft that could lead to an electrostatic discharge near the center-wing fuel tank, posing a fire risk. Boeing and the FAA have proposed mitigative measures, including installing electrical bonding and grounding to address this safety concern.