Investigations into fatal plane crash continue in Havana

Havana, May 21 (RHC)-- Cuban experts continue the investigations to clarify the causes of the plane crash that occurred in the Cuban capital last Friday and the process of identifying its victims.

Havana's Legal Medicine Institute has reported that 33 bodies have been identified of the 110 passengers and crew that were on board the Boeing 737-200 and who were killed. There are three survivors.

Renowned coroner Jorge González told Prensa Latina that identification of the victims is expected to be completed within 30 days, but warned that determining the causes of the disaster could take months and even a year or more.

The expert, recognized for his work in the search and finding in Bolivia of the remains of the Argentine-Cuban guerrilla Ernesto Guevara, explained that the specialists have in their hands the files of the six Mexican crew members, which could accelerate the process of their identification.

Meanwhile, Transportation Minister Adel Yzquierdo told Prensa Latina that the cockpit recorder of the plane leased by Cubana from the Mexican company Global Air, also known as Damojh, had been retrieved from the wreckage in good condition.

Yzquierdo said that the commission set up to clarify the causes of the tragedy is working in accordance with the international protocols established for these cases and added that two experts from the aeronautics of Mexico have joined the investigation. He also said that Cuban authorities would authorize the presence of Boeing experts from the United States.

On board the Boeing-737-200 -- which would cover the Havana-Holguín route -- traveled 113 people, of them 102 were Cubans, six Mexican crew members, two Argentinean and one Mexican tourists, and two Sahrawi residents of the Caribbean island.

The three survivors of the tragedy continue in extremely critical condition at Calixto Garcia University Hospital in Havana.

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