

## Aero Republica's Embraer 190 crashes into the Caribbean sea during landing



On July 17, 2007, when the world attention was focused on the gruesome TAM A320 crash in Sao Paulo, Brazil during landing on a wet runway killing nearly two hundred people, another landing accident on a wet runway occurred in Santa Marta, Colombia.

A Brazilian-made Embraer 190 plane operated by Aero Republica skidded off the wet runway of Simon Bolivar airport in Santa Marta, Colombia and crashed into the Caribbean Sea, injuring at least seven of the 54 people onboard. Aero Republica is a subsidiary of Copa Holdings SA, the parent company of Panama's national airline.

This is one of the country's shortest runways and other airlines had complained about difficulties in landing there. The airport's runway is only 5,575 feet long as compared to 9,850 ft runway of Bogota's El Dorado International airport.

The president of Avianca, the country's largest airline said that they also had some problems at the airport and it's worth the effort for aviation authorities, together with the airlines, take another look at any operational limits that exist at the airport.

Following this accident, Colombia is considering relocating the airport of Santa Marta. According to the head of the civil aviation authority it will take about 45 days to find out the cause of the accident.