

# NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION



"Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement"

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NPDF PROGRAM SERVICES
Operation Kids — 877-325-KIDS

www.opkids.org

Safe Cop Hotline — 888-SAFE-COP www.safecop.org

Project Pedophile — 732-616-9600

MEMBERSHIP PROCESSING CENTER

732-446-3360 & 732-617-2330

## **CHARITY REGISTRATIONS:**

New York (AG Reg. #67281) New Jersey (AG Reg. #CH09905) Connecticut (AG Reg. #9003-06350) Illinois (AG Reg. #01039264) Massachusetts (AG Reg #045573) Ohio (AG Reg #063381)

Rhode Island (AG Reg #97-2998) Pennsylvania (AG Reg #33595) NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau

Suffolk County Police Dept.

Nassau County Police Dept.

October 9, 2009

Mr. Carlos Cueto
President
Lan Airlines
US Operations
6500 North West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street
Miami, FL 33122

Dear Mr. Carlos Cueto:

As the Executive Director of one of the largest police organizations in the United States and in twelve foreign countries, I am writing you to inform you that the National Police Defense Foundation will be posting on its web site an official "boycott" of your airlines.

The genesis of this action is the reported lack of concern, compassion or common courtesy to return a call to help support a humanitarian mission to save the life of a dying 14 month baby from Ecuador named Melanie Macias.

The Baby Melanie case captured the hearts of America and Ecuador when my organization arranged a life saving heart operation that was scheduled for September 23, 2009 in New York City.

On or about September 10, 2009, I spent hours attempting to contact both your public relations and sales department in New York to see if they could assist us in arranging an emergency flight to Ecuador to return the dying baby. We wanted to travel with Lan since you were the only airlines with a non-stop flight to Guayaquil.

It was a last minute situation and as a result the cost of the ticket had almost doubled from its original price. It was suggested by a Lan's representative to call your public relations and sales departments in hopes to secure a discounted airfare for the baby.

## **NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

21 Kilmer Drive • Building 2 • Suite F • Morganville, NJ 07751 1-888-SAFE-COP • Fax: 732-446-3360 • E-mail: npdf1@aol.com • www.npdf.org Letter to Mr. Carlos Cueto October 9, 2009 Page Two

When it became evident that my calls were intentionally not being returned and the "almighty dollar" appeared to be more important than a dying Latino baby, we used Continental Airlines. As a result, we were subjected to a grueling 13 hour flight to Guayaquil.

Please know that on October 1, 2009, Baby Melanie died due to complications from her surgery.

I feel that for an airline that has a tremendous market in the United States and Ecuador, it is our responsibility to let our members many of whom use your airlines know first hand the lack of concern and compassion your airline reportedly had for a dying baby.

Very truly yours,

Joseph Occhipinti Executive Director

CC:

Webmaster, National Police Defense Foundation