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Malaysia Airlines To End Hotel Stays For MH370 Families

MH370 Families

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USPA NEWS - KUALA LUMPUR, May 1 - Malaysia Airlines will cease to provide hotel accommodation for relatives of missing flight MH370 passengers by May 7, the airline said on Thursday. The Malaysian flag carrier has provided hotel accommodation for relatives in a number of countries

most of them in Malaysia and China -- where it provided them periodic updates on the situation since shortly after the flight mysteriously disappeared on March 8. But relatives' tempers have repeatedly flared, particularly at the Lido Hotel in Beijing where Chinese families have regularly lashed out at officials from the Malaysian government and the airline over their inability to explain the plane's disappearance."Instead of staying in hotels, the families of MH370 are advised to receive information updates on the progress of the search and investigation and other support by Malaysia Airlines within the comfort of their own homes, with the support and care of their families and friends," the airline said in a statement.

"In line with this adjustment, Malaysia Airlines will be closing all of its family assistance centres around the world by 7 May 2014." The government-controlled carrier also said it would soon make advance compensation payments to the next-of-kin of the 239 people onboard the plane, part of a final package to be agreed upon later. It did not specify the amounts. About two-thirds of those aboard the missing plane, which vanished from radar en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, were Chinese nationals. The airline also had provided psychiatric support at hotels for families trying to cope with the tragedy. The carrier said it would establish centres in Beijing and Kuala Lumpur to provide "follow-up support and services" but gave no

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