**Air traffic man stabbed to death after jet crash**

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By Fiona Fleck in Geneva and Dan McLaughlin in Moscow

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An air traffic controller in charge in Switzerland when [two aircraft collided](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2002/07/02/wplane02.xml), killing scores of Russian schoolchildren, has been stabbed to death in his home in a suspected revenge killing.

Peter Nielsen, 36, was on duty alone in the Zurich control room when he gave only 44 seconds' warning to a Bashkirian Airlines aircraft and a DHL cargo craft that they were too close.

Preliminary accident reports said he told the passenger plane to descend, overruling its crash avoidance system, and the two aircraft collided over southern Germany. All 71 people on board, including 45 children from Bashkortostan, an autonomous Russian republic 1,000 miles east of Moscow, were killed.

Police said yesterday that a grey-haired, stocky man dressed in black arrived at Mr Nielsen's home in the Zurich suburb of Kloten, where he lived with his wife and three children, on Tuesday night and "drew attention to himself". His victim stepped out on to the balcony to find out what was going on, and after a brief exchange of words, was stabbed repeatedly. The killer, who was described as in his 50s and possibly from eastern Europe or Russia, fled on foot as Mr Nielsen, who was Danish and had lived in Switzerland for seven years, died at the scene. The Zurich investigating magistrate, said revenge "cannot be ruled out" as a motive for the murder. "We are looking into whether there is a link between the killing and the air accident," he said.

**Rezes’ Daughter Causes Three Deaths Driving Under Influence**

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A [car accident on the M3 in Hungary on Tuesday involving a Slovak woman](http://www.thedaily.hu/three-dead-in-m3-inferno/) that led to four Hungarians being burned alive as they could not escape their car will be used by the Hungarian courts to give an exemplary sentence as the woman had had been drinking and even had a bottle of vodka in her car at the time.

The woman, Eva Varholikova-Rezesova, is the 35-yr old daughter of the late Alexander Rezes, who controlled VSZ steelworks, among other things. The Hungarian police have confirmed that she was in fact under the influence at the time of the accident. Varholikova-Rezesova apparently dosed off and just ploughed her BMW into the back of the unsuspecting Fiat Punto, which ignited after being rammed into a crash barrier. Only one of the four passengers managed to escape, but she suffered second and third degree burns on aroun 90% of her body, while losing her husband, sister and brother-in-law. [post print: the woman also later died today]

The consequences in Hungary could be much greater than they may have been had the accident happened in Slovakia, where the highly affluent Rezes family are widely believed to have a lot of influence. The public prosecutor in Hungary is expected to motion for a 10-year prison sentence, which is 2 over the maximum as she was driving while drunk and going at excessive speed.

**Supreme Court upholds punishment for road pirate**

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld a two-year suspended sentence and a seven year ban on driving for the notorious road pirate Ales Trpišovský. Trpišovský was accused of presenting a threat to public safety by his reckless and aggressive driving on the country’s D1 highway. According to eyewitnesses he repeatedly hit the brakes in front of slower vehicles as punishment for slowing him down. In one case the car behind him crashed as a result. Trpišovský’s case has become notorious in the Czech Republic, where aggressive driving is a serious problem.

**Czech tennis star Kvitová injured in home**

The Czech tennis star Petra Kvitová was hurt during an attack at her apartment in the Moravian town of Prostějov on Tuesday morning. It has been reported that the injury may include a cut to the tendons in her left hand, the one she plays with. A local newspaper quoted a source close to the player as saying that Kvitová had fought back against the attacker and in so doing had had her hands and all her fingers cut and would likely need surgery. Her spokesman Karel Tejkal told Czech Radio that it appeared to be a random rather than planned crime. Police said the assailant had got into Kvitová’s home by claiming to be a boiler inspector and had fled after the attack. They said a robbery had occurred.