

LADIMEJI & CO

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

& CHARTERED TAX ADVISERS

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Bilal Eksi esq
The Chief Executive
Turkish Airlines
General Management Building,
Ataturk Airport,
Yesilkoy 34149
Istanbul Turkey

21 January 2019
Our Ref: TUR001/oal
Your Ref: **Miles &
Smiles: XXXXXX**

Dear Mr Eksi

Turkish airways - ground staff/visa - passport RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
(Miles & Smiles: XXXXXXXX)

I have travelled on Turkish Airlines several times and have noticed each time at Istanbul some racially discriminatory behaviour. The first time I assumed the staff had a 'bad day' - not unusual in a busy customer environment, but this is the third time I have noticed this in one year.

At the gate where the passports and visas are checked the staff behaved entirely differently to Black passengers from Africa as opposed white passengers. The first time I noticed they stopped the passenger in front of me who had a UK visa and began asking him how he obtained the visa. This is entirely discriminatory - either the visa is valid or it is not, and it is not the role of the staff to second guess the British Embassy. What on earth were they going to do if they did not agree with the answer - barr someone with a valid visa from travelling? This was just harassment. I actually challenged the staff that their questions were entirely illegitimate - whatever answer he gave made no difference to the validity of his visa, but they gave no satisfactory answer.

PRINCIPAL: O.A. LADIMEJI MA MBA FCA CTA

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ENGLAND & WALES

On 13 Jan I arrived at Istanbul on transit and went to the gate for London. At the gate the officer spent 5 minutes looking at my British Passport! He turned it upside down , sideways etc. and kept staring at me. I travel all round the world very frequently including many trips to US. I have never seen anyone turn my passport upside down or sideways to check if the photograph was valid. I looked at him with complete disdain and he let me go.

The Black lady behind me was subject to worse treatment. He pretended not to recognise her passport photo and asked for additional ID!!!! There is NO requirement to carry any other ID than a passport and I can see no situation where the additional ID could be 'better' than the passport.

All the passengers behind us who were white were nodded through after the most cursory glance at their passport. This has nothing to do with security and everything to do with harassment. I have a UK passport and I really do not appreciate Turkish Airline staff querying my right to return to my home country.

I trust you will take some steps to stop this appalling harassment.

Yours Sincerely

Dapo Ladimeji

Cc: M Ilker Ayci - Chairman