

GLOBAL NEWS



MALAYSIAN TAXI FIRM WANTS ACTION AGAINST PIRATE TAXIS!

Some things never change regardless of where you are. Illegal taxi operators at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia are not only tarnishing the nation's image, but also hurting the income of the official taxi operators.

Airport taxi managing director Nicodima Badardhin told Taxi Globe that the pirate taxi operators constantly hustled passengers as they left the arrivals hall. "Passengers can be fleeced without knowing the real fare. If left unchecked, these operators would compromise the service provided by us," he said. "In addition, many do not even realise they are getting into unlicensed vehicles."

Mr Badardhin said his company felt strongly about the problem because its taxi drivers had been badly hit with the current flow being way below the projected number of daily trips. "Since KLIA opened, we have been constantly below the number of fares we should be getting even though the number of visitors keeps going up. The question is where are they going to when they exit the terminal? The answer is to the pirates and if you think London has it bad, try working here..."

ETHIOPIAN TAXI STRIKE WARNING...

The equivalent of the PCO in Addis Ababa City has issued a warning that it will revoke licences of taxi drivers if they go ahead with their threatened strike.

Speaking at a discussion between City administration officials, taxi-owners and drivers on the implementation of the newly introduced traffic safety regulation, Ali Rano, head of the administration, said taxi services should resume and continue as normal.

Mr Rano said the safety regulation was workable and that problems arising in its implementation could be resolved through discussion rather than industrial action. Drivers claim that the new regulations will mean that they are permanently breaking the law when being told to hurry up by the passengers following the new lower speed limit for taxis, even if told by their passenger that they were in a hurry! "It will be quicker by bus" said one disgruntled driver.

According to the Ethiopian News Agency, the taxi drivers have complained that they were also mistreated by traffic policemen and employees of the Transport and Communications Bureau of the city administration. The Addis Ababa city administration warned drivers that it would take legal measures against them if they went on strike.

NEW YORK DIAL-A-DRUG RING MADE \$200,000 A WEEK

American prosecutors say they've put the brakes on a drug ring that operated under the cover of a taxi service. The taxi company's headquarters was next to a school and according to the District Attorney, the crew operated under the name Metropolitan Cab Co. and took in about \$200,000 a week. They allegedly used cabs to deliver bags of cocaine to as many 100 customers a day who had phoned in their orders. Speaking to Taxi Globe via the internet, a NYPD director told us that three members of the dial-a-drug ring were under arrest, with two of them facing life sentences. The culprits also allegedly made some extra money by renting parking spaces to teachers at a Public School!

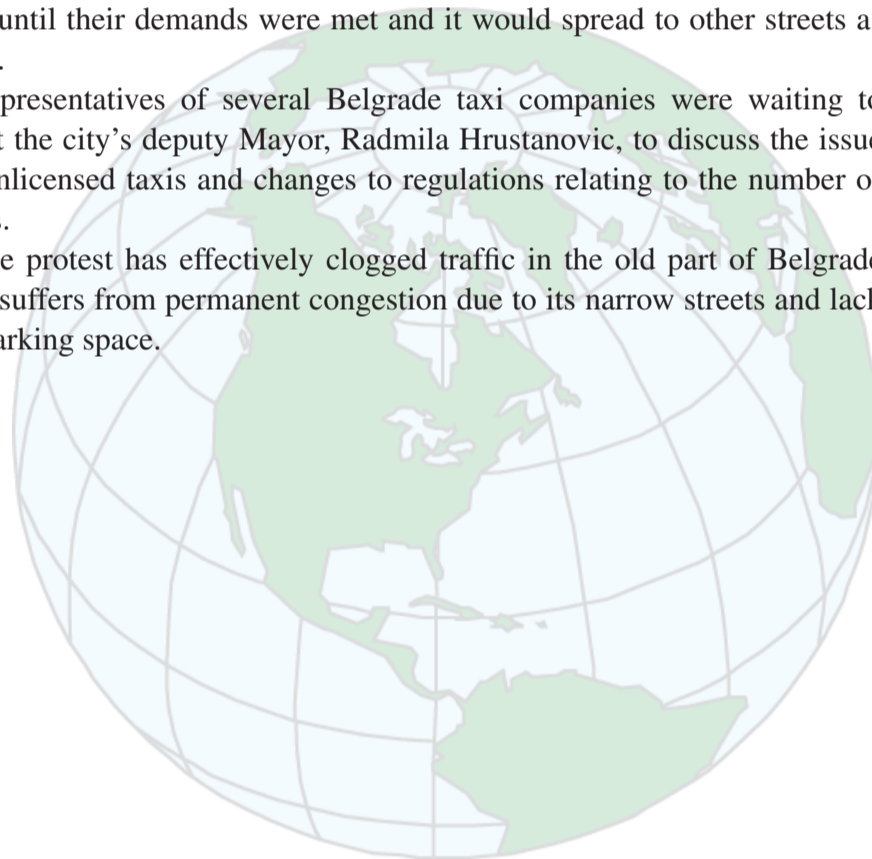
TAXI DRIVERS BRING BELGRADE TO A STANDSTILL - OVER MINICABS!

Hundreds of taxi drivers brought the Serbian capital to a standstill recently when they blocked a central avenue demanding a government crackdown on unregistered and unlicensed taxis.

In a joint statement, some 600 taxi drivers said the blockade would not end until their demands were met and it would spread to other streets as well.

Representatives of several Belgrade taxi companies were waiting to meet the city's deputy Mayor, Radmila Hrustanovic, to discuss the issue of unlicensed taxis and changes to regulations relating to the number of taxis.

The protest has effectively clogged traffic in the old part of Belgrade that suffers from permanent congestion due to its narrow streets and lack of parking space.



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