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Death toll of aircraft crashes

By Daniel Igra

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If it is confirmed that none of its 228 passengers and crew has survived, Air France flight 447 will be remembered as the twentieth worst civilian disaster in aviation history, **writes Daniel Igra**.

According to data from Ascend, the aviation consultancy, the death toll would be the highest since 2001 when an American Airlines Airbus crashed in Belle Harbor, New York, killing 260 people.

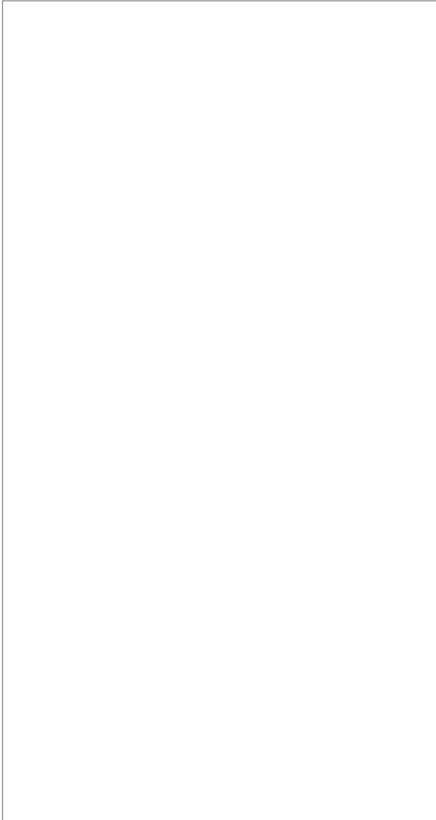
The worst aviation accident occurred in 1985, when a Japan Airlines Boeing 747 crashed on Mount Kita, killing 509 of its 509 passengers and all of its 15 crew members on board.

This would be the first fatal crash involving an Air France aircraft since the Concorde disaster almost nine years ago, when 113 people were killed as the jet burst into flames shortly after take-off from Paris.

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