

## **Germanwings crash: Families of the victims hold out for higher compensation**

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**Berlin:** Families of Germans who died in the crash of a Germanwings jet in the French Alps in March have turned down the airline's compensation offer, demanding a higher amount of at least 100,000 euros, their lawyer said.

Lufthansa, the parent company of low-cost carrier Germanwings, announced on June 30 that it would offer compensation of 25,000 euros (USD 27,000) to the families of each of 72 Germans killed in the crash

In addition, each of the victim's immediate surviving kin -- parents, children, adopted children, spouses and partners -- would each receive 10,000 euros.

"You will not be surprised that my clients have told me to refuse this inappropriate offer," wrote Elmar Giemulla, who is advising 35 relatives of the German victims, in a document addressed to Germanwings' lawyer and seen by AFP.

The lawyer called for the compensation for each victim to be "a six-figure sum", meaning at least 100,000 euros, and the same amount for the victim's immediate kin.

Among the German victims were a group of school children from the town of Haltern who were returning from a school trip to Barcelona.

"The indignation (of the clients) is great," Giemulla told AFP. "We are waiting for a new offer" from Lufthansa.

The airline declined to comment on the matter when contacted by AFP.

Prosecutors believe that the jet's 27-year-old co-pilot Andreas Lubitz deliberately crashed the Airbus A320 into the French Alps on March 24, killing all 150 people on board.

After the crash, Lufthansa offered aid of up to 50,000 euros per passenger to their relatives, independent of any eventual compensation payments.

- PTI