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43 killed in air crash in Yichun

Posted by Eric Mu, August 25, 2010 11:18 AM

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Lisa Brackmann's Rock Paper Tiger excerpt and Q&A

Lisa Brackmann has worked as a motion picture executive and an issues researcher in a presidential campaign. She has lived and traveled extensively in China. A southern California native, Brackmann in Venice, California, and spends a lot of time in Beijing, China. Rock Paper Tiger is her first novel.



Beijing Times, August 25, 2010

A passenger jet with 96 people on board crashed while trying to land on the airport in Yichuan, Heilongjiang Province yesterday at 9:35 p.m. According to today's Beijing Times, the airplane broke into two parts shortly before it touched down and burst into flames soon after it landed. 43 people have been confirmed dead.

The crashed plane, an ERJ-190 airliner manufactured by Brazilian company Embraer, belonged to domestic airline company Henan Airlines. The crash put an end to Chinese civil aviation's record of 2102 days without accident since 2004.

Two testimonies from survivors were quoted by the paper:

My seat was 11C, which was just next to the emergency door. The rear part was already on fire and everyone was rushing towards the front. It seemed that the plane didn't land well, because I saw the runway lights were still far off [when it landed]. I was wondering why we landed here.

The flight was very smooth. My colleague told me that it was a new airplane. His words were reassuring enough to make me feel good about the trip. But when it touched down, it seemed that we landed on a bumpy ground and our minds went completely blank, then I saw [sentence incomplete in the original text]. I was the first to get out. I crawled through a broken pothole for fear that the plane might

explode. I saw two people who also got out following me.

I didn't see the airport when our plane landed. I didn't see it until there was some barbed wire popping out into my view. I heard sound of crashing and the plane caught fire shortly afterwards. My seat was on the line 9 and I ran to the line 1 on the front. The structure of the plane was distorted and the impact left a hole in its body. I was among the first to flee the plane and it exploded less than two minutes after I got out. I found my waist hurt and my X-ray shows I sustained a spinal fracture.



Annotated illustration of the air crash

### Links and Sources

- *Beijing Times* (Chinese): [Air crash in Yichun, Heilongjiang Province](#)

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*The Guardian's* Jon Watts authored a book on the environment, focusing especially on China and how its realities and policies will affect the rest of the world.

**Jeroen de Kloet's *China with a Cut*:** Jeroen de Kloet is the author of *China with a Cut*, which looks into the *dakou* culture and then the ensuing commercialism of China's music market.

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+ **National Geographic goes Chinese** (2008.06): An American publication portraying China to the Chinese - in Chinese? Not surprisingly, the choice of topics reveals certain China tropes that have gained currency in the West.

+ **New Years Past: Other Spring Festivals by Geremie R. Barmé** (2007.02): Sang Ye interviews two people about their experiences during Great Leap Forward-era Spring Festivals. Translated and annotated by Geremie R. Barmé.

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