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Cathay Loses Pilot Dispute Case

Associated Press

HONG KONG—A Hong Kong court has ruled that [Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.](#) unfairly fired 18 pilots amid a labor dispute in 2001 and ordered the airline to pay the former employees more than US\$7 million.

The 18 pilots were among a group of 49 fired in July 2001 when Cathay's main pilots' union and management were locked in a dispute over wages and scheduling. The union launched a "work-to-rule" campaign, discouraging members from working beyond the terms of their contracts.

Hong Kong High Court Judge A.T. Reyes said in a ruling Wednesday the 18 pilots were unfairly dismissed and wrongfully terminated.

He said Cathay executives also defamed them by publicly accusing them of disrupting the airline's operations.

The judge awarded 17 of the 18 plaintiffs 150,000 Hong Kong dollars (US\$19,350) each for unfair dismissal, a month's pay each for wrongful termination and HK\$3.3 million each in defamation damages.

Cathay Pacific spokeswoman Carolyn Leung said she was still studying the ruling and had no immediate comment.

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Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.(0293.HK)	13.12	+0.22	3:01a.m.
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