

Aviation: Ethiopian Airlines flight crashes into Mediterranean Sea

Ethiopian Airlines flight 409 from Beirut to Addis Ababa has crashed into the sea. All 83 passengers and seven crew on the Boeing 737-800 are feared dead.

The aircraft departed Rafik Hariri International Airport last night, and disappeared from radar just five minutes later.

Wreckage, including the tailplane which is above the waves, is a mere two miles off the coast.

Because of recent security requirements, the airline has a very detailed list of passengers: more than half were Lebanese, a quarter were Ethiopians.

There are several rescue forces in the area looking for possible survivors, clues and the black boxes.

The aircraft took off in a heavy thunderstorm and high winds were prevalent but it is thought that the aircraft took advantage of a lull to take off.

Eye witnesses say that they saw the aircraft in flames before it came down.