

Two Indonesian aircraft collide mid-air ahead of Lima exhibition
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Two KT-1B aircraft of Indonesia's Jupiter aerobatics team crashed this afternoon when they collided in mid-air during practice for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) 2015 exhibition, according to reports from the scene.

The pilots managed to eject to safety, though reports say two kampung houses are on fire as a result of the crashes.

According to Bernama, a spokesman for the Langkawi Fire and Rescue Department said the accident occurred at 2.04 pm when six KT-1B aircraft were crossing the MIEC air space before two of them collided in the air.

The two aircraft then crashed outside the airport area, and then fire and smoke was seen.

A witness, Husin Ahmad, 25, said he saw one pilot ejecting from his aircraft and activating his parachute.

"I was having lunch, when I suddenly saw the two planes colliding at the tail end, emitting smoke, before they crashed."

"One of the pilots managed to bail out with a parachute," he said.

It was reported that the two aircraft were part of a formation of six when the mishap occurred.

All practice flights were stopped as combat search and rescue helicopters were deployed to find the pilots.

The crash occurred just hours before defence ministers of all Asean member nations are scheduled arrive at Langkawi for a two-day meeting. – March 15, 2015.

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