



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **It was a Full Bloom Valentine's Season for Qatar Airways Cargo**

***The carrier transported 5000 tonnes of flowers for Valentine's Day, introducing additional flights and charters to cater to the demand in key markets. Its product QR Fresh offers a seamless cool chain for the transport of flowers.***

16 February 2021

**Doha, Qatar** – It is a floral February for Qatar Airways Cargo as it transported millions of flowers for Valentine's Day, one of the biggest events worldwide. Qatar Airways Cargo transported more than 5000 tonnes of flowers, mainly roses and carnations. The increase in floral exports for 2021's Valentine's Day is a testament to the customers' trust in the airline's cool chain solutions.

Thanks to its innovative QR Fresh solution, the flowers are maintained in a temperature-controlled environment during the transport process including any transit. The cargo carrier shipped flowers from all over the world with the main markets being Ecuador, Colombia and Kenya. Flowers are also uplifted from The Netherlands, India, South Africa, Uganda, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Ethiopia among other countries.

Guillaume Halleux, Qatar Airways Chief Officer Cargo said, "Valentine's Day is a global celebration and there is no better way to express your love, than with flowers. We are glad to help spread tonnes of love and cheer around the world by introducing additional capacity and freighters on our key routes to support our customers. Understanding the nature of these delicate flowers, we have special processes in place to ensure a seamless cold chain for their transport."

To meet the demand, Qatar Airways Cargo operated eight Boeing 777 freighters from Quito with flowers destined for European and Australian markets, in addition to its scheduled four weekly Boeing 777 freighters. The carrier also added three freighters from Quito to Miami, in addition to the three regular rotations. Miami serves as one of the largest distribution hubs in the United States of America. It also added 13 mini freighters and five Boeing 777 freighters from Nairobi, to support Valentine's Day shipments besides transporting flowers on its regular four weekly Boeing 777 freighters. From Bogotá, the carrier transported flowers on its two weekly Boeing 777 freighters. It is the airline's fifth Valentine season from Ecuador, second from Colombia and sixteenth season from Kenya.

Overall in 2020, Qatar Airways Cargo uplifted close to 32,000 tonnes of flowers.

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**About Qatar Airways Cargo:**

Qatar Airways Cargo, one of the world's leading international air cargo carriers, serves more than 60 freighter destinations worldwide via its world-class Doha hub and also delivers freight on the belly-hold deck of passenger aircraft to an extensive network. The Qatar Airways Cargo fleet includes two Boeing 747-8 freighters and 24 Boeing 777 freighters.

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