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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., to picket
United Airlines Wednesday, April 12th,
for abusing passenger**

CHICAGO: Expressing total disgust after viewing a video of a man being dragged off a United Airlines Flight because he refused to give up his seat for United employees, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. Tuesday called for picketing the airline from 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday at the United Gate at O'Hare Airport.



The nightmare for the 69-year-old passenger, who identified himself as a physician, began last Sunday when Chicago Department of Aviation security officers announced they had to bump four passengers on Flight #3411 to accommodate four United crewmembers.

When no one responded, the officers said they would be randomly chosen. "A computer has no soul. Don't blame it on the computer," said Rev. Jackson who labeled the attack on the passenger as "brutal" and called for the firing of the security officer. "United should be sued. "The cameras told the story."



While the doctor told the guards he had patients waiting in Louisville, his pleas fell on death ears.

In fact, his lip was bloodied as officers dragged him off the plane. “They should beat the competition, not the customer,” an irate Rev. Jackson said.

The officers said there were four United employees that had to fill those seats.

United has a history of removing its own customers like last year the airline booted off 3,875 passengers and just last month, United was widely criticized when its personnel barred two teenage girls from boarding a flight just because they were wearing leggings which is a dress code violation for passengers traveling on employee passes.

But United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz, who won an award last month as “Communicator of the Year,” is standing by his officers. He wrote a letter to his employees saying, “Dear Team. Like you, I was upset to see and hear about what happened last night aboard United Express Flight 3411 headed from Chicago to Louisville.

“While the facts and circumstances are still evolving, **especially with respect to why this customer defied Chicago Aviation Security Officers the way he did...**” **Munoz** backed the actions of his guards. “While I deeply regret this situation arose, I also emphatically stand behind all of you, and I want to commend you for continuing to go above and beyond to ensure we fly right.”

Jackson said, “We will picket and protest United Airlines for attacking and disrespecting its own customers.” CNN reported today that United Airline stocks dropped since the video went viral.

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