

**Ukraine gov't confirms plane hit by missile**  
**MalaysiaKini.com**  
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MH17 Ukrainian interior minister adviser Anton Gerashchenko confirming that MH17 was hit by a missile and crashed near the eastern town of Torez.

According to Bloomberg, Gerashchenko stated this on his Facebook.

Reports claimed that the Malaysian plane, with 295 people on board, came down in a region of military action where Ukrainian government forces are battling pro-Russian separatists.

Meanwhile, news agency Interfax reported that the plane came down 50km short of entering Russian airspace.

It "began to drop, afterwards it was found burning on the ground on Ukrainian territory," the report quoted an unnamed source as saying.

A separate unnamed source in the Ukrainian security apparatus, quoted by Interfax, said the plane disappeared from radar at a height of 10,000 metres after which it came down near the town of Shakhtyorsk.

Ukraine president Petro Poroshenko also denies that the Ukraine Air Force shot the plane down.

The separatists, however, deny that it shot down the plane and blame Kiev instead, a Russia state-owned broadcaster reports.

Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein tweeted that the Malaysian military is still confirming the matter.

MAS said MH17 left Amsterdam at 12.15am and was due in Kuala Lumpur at 6.10am local time.

MAS lost contact with the plane at 1415 GMT at 30 kilometres from Tamak, a town 50 kilometres from the Russian-Ukraine border.

The plane was carrying 280 passengers and 15 crew members.

