

**Malaysian investigators voice scepticism MH370 target of attack**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
**11 March, 2014**

A Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) vessel departing from its base in Tok Bali for search and rescue operations for the missing Malaysia Airlines MH370 in the waters off the northeastern coast of the peninsula. The search operations enter their fourth day today. Investigators in Malaysia are voicing scepticism the Malaysia Airlines MH370 jet that disappeared on Saturday with 239 people onboard was the target of an attack, American and European government sources close to the probe said.

The fate of the Malaysian airliner that vanished about an hour into a flight to Beijing remained a mystery, as a massive air and sea search, now in its fourth day, failed to turn up any trace of the Boeing 777-200ER plane.

Neither Malaysia's Special Branch, the agency leading the investigation locally nor spy agencies in the United States and Europe have ruled out the possibility that militants may have been involved in downing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 (registration number 9M-MRO).

But Malaysian authorities have indicated that the evidence so far does not strongly back an attack as a cause for the aircraft's disappearance, and that mechanical or pilot problems could have led to the apparent crash, the American sources said.

"There is no evidence to suggest an act of terror," said a European security source, who added that there was also "no explanation what's happened to it or where it is".

Dozens of ships and aircraft from 10 countries were still scouring the seas around Malaysia and south of Vietnam as questions mounted over possible security lapses that could have led to a downing of the Boeing 777-200ER after it climbed to an altitude of 10,700m.

Interpol confirmed on Sunday at least two passengers used stolen passports and said it was checking whether others aboard had used false identity documents.

Even so, one American source said Malaysian authorities were leaning away from the theory that the plane was attacked.

Their view was mostly based on electronic evidence that indicates the flight may have turned back towards Kuala Lumpur before disappearing.

Even that information has not been clearly confirmed and investigators and intelligence sources say the fate of the Flight MH370 is still shrouded in mystery.

One reason was that the aircraft had failed to make automatic contact with a flight data-monitoring system after vanishing from radar screens, two people familiar with the matter said yesterday.

Such contact could have helped investigators determine what happened.

The aircraft was equipped with a maintenance computer capable of talking to the ground automatically through short messages known as ACARS.

"There were no signals from ACARS from the time the aircraft disappeared," a source involved in the investigations said.

Also raising doubts about the possibility of an attack, the United States extensively reviewed imagery taken by spy satellites for evidence of a mid-air explosion, but saw none, a US government source said. The source described US satellite coverage of the region as thorough.

With no success so far, authorities were planning to widen the search from today, said director-general of Civil Aviation Datuk Azharuddin Abdul Rahman. – Reuters, March 11, 2014.

Hakcipta © 2014 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/malaysian-investigators-voice-scepticism-mh370-target-of-attack>