

Flight MH17 Tragedy Chronology Of Events

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and the other affected countries are arduously seeking justice for the victims of Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Flight MH17 that was shot down on July 17 last year.

The incident that sparked international condemnation cost the lives of all 283 passengers and 15 crew on board the Boeing 777 aircraft.

The commercial plane was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, cruising at an altitude of 30,000 ft, when it was shot down and crashed in a tense area of war-torn Ukraine near the Russian border.

The Russian and Ukraine governments have denied involvement in the incident.

The people on board were from the Netherlands (193), Malaysia (43), Australia (27), Indonesia (12), the United Kingdom (10), Belgium (four), Germany (four), the Philippines (three) and Canada and New Zealand (one each).

The plane was to have arrived in Kuala Lumpur at 6.10am (Malaysian time) on Friday, July 18.

The tragedy was another shocking incident for the nation after Flight MH370 disappeared four months earlier, on March 8, with 227 passengers and 12 crew on board.

The chronology of events pertaining to Flight MH17:

* July 17, 2014 - At 12.15pm (Amsterdam local time), MH17 took off from the Amsterdam airport.

- At 10.15pm (Malaysia time) MAS confirmed it received notification from the Ukrainian ATC that it had lost contact with Flight MH17 at 1415 (GMT) at 30km from Tamak waypoint, approximately 50km from the Russia-Ukraine border.

- International news agencies reported that the wreckage was found near the village of Grobovo, Ukraine, in rebel-held territory close to the Russian border with images showing wreckage, bodies and personal belongings strewn over an area of several square kilometres.

* July 18, 2014 - Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announces an immediate investigation into the tragedy.

- The international community calls for a full, transparent and international investigation and an "immediate ceasefire" in Ukraine.

* July 19, 2014 - The Malaysian special investigation team comprising 131 personnel arrives in Kiev, Ukraine.

- International investigation teams including from Malaysia could not access the crash site because of the civil war between the pro-Russian rebels and the Ukraine military.

- MAS releases full passenger manifest.

* July 21, 2014 - The 12-man Malaysian negotiation team led by National Security Council principal assistant secretary Lt Col Mohd Sukri Hussain obtains the MH17 black boxes and victims' body parts after three days of negotiations with the pro-Russian separatist leader Alexander Borodai in Donetsk, Ukraine.

- The black boxes were later transported to the Netherlands and then to Farnborough, southwest of London, for examination of the flight data.

- The body parts were flown to Eindhoven, the Netherlands, for the disaster victim identification (DVI) process and criminal investigation.

* July 23, 2014 - Malaysia convenes a special sitting of the Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives) and strongly condemns the shooting down of MH17 as uncivilised, inhuman and savage.

- Najib, in tabling a motion in the Dewan Rakyat on the Flight MH17 tragedy, expresses Malaysia's disappointment and anger over the disrespect for the crash site as a prohibited zone and the delay in recovering the bodies.

* Aug 1, 2014 - Najib arrives in Amsterdam.

- Malaysia and the Netherlands call for cessation of hostilities at the crash site.

* Aug 22, 2014 - A national day of mourning is held across Malaysia as the remains of 20 victims of the MH17 tragedy are flown home.

* Sept 9, 2014 - The preliminary accident report is released by the Dutch authorities.

- It concludes that the aircraft and crew did not send any distress signal and did not report any technical failure of the plane.

- Damage observed indicates that there was impact from a large number of high-energy objects from outside the aircraft.

* Dec 1, 2014 - Malaysia has been accepted as a full member of the MH17 Joint Investigation Team which is focused on criminal investigation into the downing of MH17.

- Parts of the wreckage from MH17 are transported by truck from Ukraine, as investigators begin the tagging and reassembling of aircraft parts.

* Feb 18, 2015 - The latest Security Council draft resolution on the situation in Ukraine has reaffirmed its demand for accountability for those responsible for the downing of Flight MH17.

* May 19, 2015 - The Dutch Safety Board's international investigation team is now focused on the analysis of uncorroborated facts provided by the media, regarding procrastination in the MH17 plane crash investigation.

* July 10, 2015 - Malaysia receives a report on the investigations into the Flight MH17 tragedy by the Dutch authorities.

- The government would need about 60 days to examine the report thoroughly before providing feedback to the Dutch authorities.

* July 11, 2015 - Malaysia holds a commemoration ceremony for the first anniversary of the MH17 tragedy.

* July 14 - The countries undertaking the independent criminal investigation into the downing of MH17 ask the UN Security Council to establish an international criminal tribunal to try those responsible for crimes connected to the downing that occurred over Ukraine on 17 July 2014 and took 298 lives.

- Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine consider an independent international criminal tribunal established by the Council, reflecting the highest international standards, would be the best means of ensuring justice for the victims and their loved ones.

* July 30, 2015 - Russia uses its veto right in the UN Security Council to block a five-nation proposal, initiated by Malaysia, to establish an ad hoc criminal international tribunal to try those responsible for the downing of MH17.

* Aug 24, 2015 - Malaysia submits feedback on the MH17 plane crash report to the Dutch investigation team, according to Malaysian Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

* Oct 13, 2015 - Malaysia receives final report on MH17 incident prepared by an independent committee set up to investigate the tragedy.

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