

ASEM Wants Those Responsible For Downing of MH17 to Be Held Accountable

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ULAANBAATAR (Mongolia), July 16 (Bernama) -- Leaders attending the 11th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit on Saturday said those responsible for the downing of MH17 two years ago must be held accountable and brought to justice.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the leaders wanted action to be taken in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 2166 (2014).

"The MH17 tragedy was included in the Chair's statement. Leaders want justice to be done," he told the Malaysian media at the end of the two-day ASEM in the Mongolian capital.

In the Chair's statement issued at the end of the Summit, which was attended by leaders from 51 European and Asian countries, they renewed their sympathy to all those who had lost their loved ones.

"Such acts of violence threaten the safety of civil aviation," the statement said. A total of 298 innocent people, including 196 from the Netherlands, were on board the Boeing 777 aircraft which was shot down enroute to Kuala Lumpur from Amsterdam. None survived.

MH17 was shot down while cruising at an altitude of 30,000 ft and crashed in an area of tension in Ukraine, near the Russian border.

Last year, chairman of Dutch Safety Board, Tjibbe Joustra, confirmed that it was shot down by a Buk surface-to-air missile over eastern Ukraine.

The report came out after 15 months of investigation undertaken by a joint team from the Netherlands, Ukraine, Malaysia, Australia, United Kingdom, United States and Russia.

Ahmad Zahid also said that the matter was discussed during his meeting with the Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte here on Friday.

He said both countries committed to bring to justice those responsible for the downing of the MH17 flight, adding that investigations were ongoing and they hoped those responsible would be brought to court.

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