

## Flight MH17

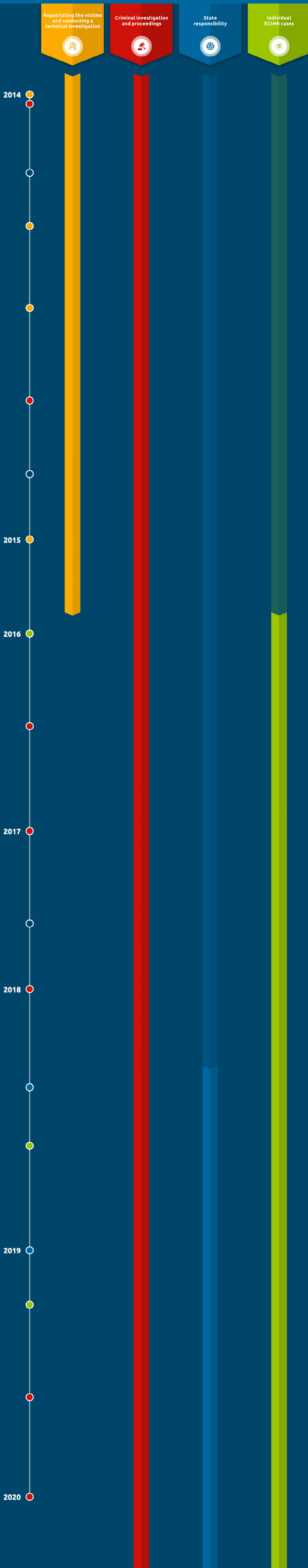
On 17 July 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was downed over the east of Ukraine. All 298 people on board, including 196 Dutch nationals, lost their lives.

The Dutch government wants the downing to be investigated as thoroughly as possible and has set three objectives: to establish the truth, achieve justice for the victims of Flight MH17 and their next of kin, and hold to account those responsible for downing Flight MH17.

The Netherlands, with the support of the international community, has worked tirelessly to achieve this, and continues to do so. Since Flight MH17 was downed, major steps have been taken towards establishing truth, justice and accountability. An overview is provided below.



### Tijdslijn





19 July 2014

### **Dutch investigators travel to Ukraine**

Dutch relief workers, including staff of the Dutch Safety Board and members of the crisis team of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, travel to Ukraine as quickly as possible after the crash. The Netherlands leads the international efforts to recover and identify the victims.

19 July 2014

### **The Dutch Public Prosecution Service starts a criminal investigation**

Staff of the Dutch Public Prosecution Service travel to Ukraine as quickly as possible after the crash. A criminal investigation is started into the downing of Flight MH17. The Dutch Public Prosecution Service takes the lead in establishing international cooperation with other affected countries. On 28 July 2014, the criminal investigation authorities of 12 states, including Australia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Belgium and Ukraine, meet to discuss working together in the investigation.



21 July 2014

## **The Security Council of the United Nations adopts Resolution 2166**

On 20 and 21 July 2014 the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frans Timmermans, visits the United Nations in New York to discuss the downing of Flight MH17. At a meeting of the UN Security Council (UNSC) about Ukraine, Mr Timmermans, on behalf of the Netherlands, urges the UNSC members to adopt a resolution proposed by Australia. UNSC Resolution 2166 is adopted at this UNSC meeting. Its main elements are: a demand for safe, secure, full and unrestricted access to the crash site, a declaration of support for an independent international investigation, and a call for those responsible for the downing of the aircraft to be held to account and for all states to cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability.

 [Text resolution](#)

 [Text speech](#)

 [Speech minister Timmermans](#)



23 July 2014

### **First MH17 victims repatriated to the Netherlands**

On 23 July 2014, a day of national mourning, the first victim repatriation Flights to the Netherlands take place. The aircraft land at Eindhoven airport and are given a ceremonial reception. Each subsequent Flight is also met with due ceremony by next of kin and government representatives.



24 July 2014

## **The Dutch Safety Board investigates the circumstances of the crash of Flight MH17**

Ukraine transfers authority to carry out the technical investigation into the crash of Flight MH17 to the Netherlands. The Dutch Safety Board will carry out the technical investigation on behalf of the Netherlands. The Dutch Safety Board is an autonomous administrative authority and operates independently of the Dutch government and other parties.

# JIT

## Joint Investigation Team

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7 August 2014

### **Joint Investigation Team (JIT) established**

An international investigation team is established to determine the facts surrounding the crash of Flight MH17, identify those responsible for the crash and gather evidence for a prosecution. It is called a Joint Investigation Team (JIT).

The members of the JIT represent the criminal investigation authorities of a number of the countries affected by the crash: the Netherlands, Australia, Malaysia and Belgium. Ukraine, where the crash occurred, is also a full member of the JIT. The Dutch Public Prosecution Service is coordinating the international criminal investigation.

27 Oktober 2014

## **The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization adopts a Resolution concerning the downing of Flight MH17**

The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) adopts a Resolution concerning the downing of Flight MH17.

 **Text resolution**





13 Oktober 2015

## **Dutch Safety Board report: Flight MH17 downed by a Buk missile**

Over a year after the crash the Dutch Safety Board completes its investigation into the downing of Flight MH17. The final report is published on 13 October 2015. In its report, the Dutch Safety Board concludes, among other things, that Flight MH17 was downed by a Buk missile fired from eastern Ukraine.

 **Report**



6 May 2016

**First individual application lodged with the European Court of Human Rights against the Russian Federation**

On 6 May 2016 the first individual application by next of kin is lodged with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) against the Russian Federation in connection with the downing of Flight MH17.



26 September 2016

## **JIT: Flight MH17 downed by a Buk surface-to-air missile fired from a Buk-TELAR in the east of Ukraine**

The JIT says that it is in possession of evidence showing that Flight MH17 was downed on 17 July 2014 by a Buk surface-to-air missile fired from a Buk-TELAR. The JIT also says that it has proof of the missile launch location. This was an agricultural field near Pervomaiskyi, which was controlled at the time by pro-Russian separatists.

The JIT also announces that it has information about some 100 people who can be connected in one way or another with the downing of Flight MH17 or the transport of the Buk TELAR. It states that it knows the identities of these 100 people. To gather more information, the JIT appeals for witnesses to come forward. The investigation is continuing.

 [Read article](#)



5 July 2017

## **Decision by JIT countries: prosecution to take place in the Netherlands under Dutch law**

Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, Ukraine and the Netherlands - the countries whose criminal investigation authorities are collaborating in the JIT - together decide that the prosecution of suspects for the downing of Flight MH17 will take place in the Netherlands.

The Dutch Public Prosecution Service will take appropriate decisions on prosecution at a suitable time. The national prosecution in the Netherlands is rooted in close and lasting international cooperation and support.

 **Kamerbrief besluit vervolgingsmechanisme MH17**





17 July 2017

### **Unveiling of Flight MH17 memorial near the village of Vijfhuizen**

Three years after the downing of Flight MH17, the National MH17 Monument for the victims of Flight MH17 is unveiled near the village of Vijfhuizen during the annual commemoration. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima are in attendance. The memorial is situated in Vijfhuizen Park.



24 May 2018

## **JIT: the Buk-TELAR used to down Flight MH17 belongs to the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade of the Russian army**

The JIT presents various findings of the investigation at a press conference. The JIT is convinced that the Buk TELAR used to down Flight MH17 belongs to the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade (below: 53rd AAMB), a Russian army unit from Kursk in the Russian Federation.

Various images of the Buk-TELAR used to down Flight MH17 are available. Analysis of them reveals a number of features. In combination, these features are so unique that they can be regarded as a fingerprint. This fingerprint was compared with numerous images of various Buk-TELARs, both Ukrainian and Russian. The only Buk-TELAR found to have this combination of features is a Buk-TELAR filmed on various occasions in a convoy of the 53rd Brigade, which was driving from the 53rd AAMB's base in Kursk, the Russian Federation, in the direction of the border with the east of Ukraine in the period from 23 to 25 June 2014.

As these findings raise new questions, the JIT appeals for insiders and eyewitnesses who know more about the events surrounding the downing of Flight MH17 to come forward.

 [Read article](#)

25 May 2018

## **The Netherlands and Australia jointly invoke the responsibility of the Russian Federation under international law for its role in the downing of Flight MH17**

Australia and the Netherlands announce that they hold the Russian Federation responsible under international law for its role in the downing of Flight MH17 on 17 July 2014. This decision follows the JIT's finding that the Buk-TELAR used to down Flight MH17 belonged to the Russian army. The Russian Federation has been informed of this decision by diplomatic note. In this note the Russian Federation is requested to enter into negotiations to find a solution that would do justice to the tremendous suffering and the damage caused by the downing of Flight MH17.



**Kamerbrief over staatsaansprakelijkheid Rusland inzake vlucht MH17**

The logo of the European Court of Human Rights, featuring three stylized, wireframe domes of the court's buildings. The background is a dark blue grid pattern.

# EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

23 November 2018

## **Second individual application lodged with the European Court of Human Rights against the Russian Federation**

On 23 November 2018 a second individual application by next of kin is lodged with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) against the Russian Federation in connection with the downing of Flight MH17.



27 March 2019

**Dutch government announces that a first meeting of Australia and the Netherlands with the Russian Federation has taken place**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stef Blok, and his Australian counterpart, Marise Payne, announce in Canberra that the Netherlands and Australia have held a first meeting with the Russian Federation about the downing of Flight MH17. This follows the invocation by Australia and the Netherlands of the responsibility of the Russian Federation under international law, and their invitation to the Russian Federation to enter into negotiations about the downing of Flight MH17 and the resulting consequences.



10 May 2019

### **Dutch government decides to intervene in the individual applications by the next of kin**

On 4 April 2019, the ECtHR formally begins processing the individual applications by next of kin against the Russian Federation in connection with the downing of FFlight MH17. States that are party to the ECtHR and whose nationals are involved in these proceedings (including the Netherlands) receive an invitation from the ECtHR to intervene in these individual application proceedings. On 10 May 2019, the Netherlands announces that it will use its right to intervene in the individual application proceedings instituted by next of kin before the ECtHR. This means, in effect, that the Netherlands will submit its views on the individual applications. In this way, the Netherlands supports the next of kin in their cases against the Russian Federation.



19 June 2019

## **The Dutch Public Prosecution Service announces, on the basis of the JIT investigation, that it will prosecute four suspects. The JIT investigation continues**

The JIT holds a press conference to announce new findings of its investigation.

The Dutch Public Prosecution Service announces that, on the basis of the JIT's investigation, it will prosecute four suspects for their role in the downing of Flight MH17, namely Igor Girkin, Sergey Dubinskiy, Oleg Pulatov and Leonid Kharchenko. They are being put on national and international wanted lists.

The trial is to start on 9 March 2020, at 10.00, and will be heard by The Hague District Court, sitting at Justice Complex Schiphol. The suspects are summoned to appear here.



9 March 2020

## **Start of trial of four suspects before The Hague District Court. Hearings held at Justice Complex Schiphol**

The trial of the four suspects is to start on 9 March 2020 at 10.00 and will be heard by The Hague District Court, sitting at Justice Complex Schiphol.