

To the ambassador of the State of Malaysia to The Netherlands,  
his excellency mister NAZRI BIN YUSOF

Wassenaar, June 1, 2019

Your excellency, dear Mister Nazri,

we are writing to you in a matter of utmost concern, a matter that has tied together the fates of scores of families from Malaysia and our own country: the downing of Malaysian Airlines flight MH-17. A matter of unfathomable private grief and, if unchallenged, with important ramifications for international law and respect for human life. We are a group of some twenty bereaved families united in the Working Group Truth Finding.

Based on a report published by The Star<sup>1</sup> last week, and with all due respect, we feel compelled to object to remarks apparently made by your Prime Minister Dr. Mahatdir Mohamad. His remarks are more than just bizarre and uncomfortable; we find them counterproductive to the cause of finding the truth behind the murder on 298 defenseless people, of which 43 Malaysian citizens. We ultimately feel, again with all due respect for the Prime Minister and his Office, his remarks to betray all victims, as well as their grieving families.

Dr. Mahatdir Mohamad was right in marking that the truth and actual perpetrators have not yet been established in court. However, your government has always backed all finding by the JIT. Dr. Mahatdir Mohamad's other remarks contradict his own government's position. The JIT's findings, based on evidence to which Malaysian Police have access to, as well as scores of publicly available evidence of all kinds, support their conclusion that the Buk TELAR used for the murder was owned by, transported from and brought back to the Russian Federation after unleashing its deadly payload. This particularly important piece of evidence has been obfuscated, hidden and presumably destroyed by the Russian Federation.

So in this respect, everyone should join your Prime Minister in asking: *Where is the evidence?*

But this is just one example of Russia flagrantly breaching its obligations following from UNSC resolution 2166. There is also irrefutable proof Russia has fabricated false evidence in more than one occasion. The Russian Federation is hiding and shielding important witnesses the JIT are interested to talk to.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/05/31/mh17-where-is-the-evidence-russia-is-responsible-asks-dr-m/>

So yes, there was and is a role for the Russian Federation, a role it has failed to answer for to families like ourselves, to countries including your own and to the United Nations as a whole.

If their role goes beyond that is still to be established in court. However, it needs no further explanation that suggesting the Russian Federation may have had no role at all, is appalling. Suggesting your own Police is conducting a politically guided investigation is too, for apparent reasons.

Dr. Mahatdir Mohamad's remarks are undermining the process to finding the truth, and so counter the interest of Malaysian victims and families. They counter the interest of Malaysia Airlines Bhd. that have seen personnel killed and a multi-million dollar plane destroyed. They undermine the trust in Malaysian Police represented in the JIT and thereby in Malaysian law enforcement institutions as a whole. Indeed, they are feeding hopes of culprits and their sponsors to get away with a crime that shocked the world and may encourage others to repeat such acts. In a broader sense, his remarks send the message Malaysia feels it is OK to ignore UN Security Council resolutions.

Having established Dr. Mahatdir Mohamad remarks ignore facts and counter the interests of Malaysian citizens, Malaysian government institutions and Malaysian enterprises, we call upon your government to refrain from speculation as to who may or may not be responsible for the murder on 300 souls including 80 children, until a court has spoken.

Meanwhile, we are confident that your government will support the work and findings of its own institutions until – and only if – proven wrong in that same court. We are also confident you will help enforce UNSC resolution 2166 in full.

Of course, if your Prime Minister has been quoted wrongly or misunderstood, we deeply apologize. In any case we are most willing to discuss matters in a private meeting, should you desire so, in the confidence that our strive for justice parallels yours.

Yours truly,

the Working Group Truth Finding