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OPINION

JUSTICE FOR MH17

Khoo Ying Hooi



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KHOO YING HOOI

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The world is reshaping, unfortunately not for the better, on the day MH17 was shot down.

As Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak rightly mentioned, July 17 is a tragic day in a tragic year for Malaysia.

While flight MH370 which vanished with 239 people on board is yet to be found despite a huge search for several months now, the fate of flight MH17 from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, with 298 people, shocked everyone across the globe.

Having said that, the sentiment is different this time around.

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In the

incident of MH370, fingers were pointed to possible negligence of the Malaysian government and its national airline. However, in the MH17 tragedy, there is sadness, as well as sympathy and frustration, as it is a human tragedy. The MH17 is a victim of the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Now, the question of who shot down MH17 is of paramount importance.

As widely reported, MH17 was believed to have been shot down by pro-Russian Ukrainian separatists, with materials and technical support provided by Moscow.

At this point, while Kiev and Moscow blamed each other for the incident, all

eyes are on Russia. Marches to boycott Putin are growing around the world, as 298 lives are lost due to a “mistake”.

Either way, the huge loss of innocent lives is a catalyst for the international community to escalate support for the Ukrainian government’s efforts to defeat the rebels, and intensify pressure on Russia to stop backing the separatists.

What happened to MH17 is heartbreaking. It underscores the dangers when non-state actors are armed. Hopefully the world leaders will take this as a lesson.

The 298 innocent people on MH17 had no connection whatsoever to the fightings. Their international flight was simply passing through airspace above the battle area.

Much remains unclear. One thing for sure, the tragedy has internationalised the conflict between Kiev and Moscow. This could lead to

a further retrogression in Russia's relations with the West.

In the past, the international community may have viewed the crisis in Ukraine as a remote issue. However, what happened to MH17 turned the situation into one with deep consequences worldwide.

The MH17 episode puts Malaysia in international limelight again. It is important that we do not make the situation worse. It should not be allowed to happen again.

We should all stand united together to ensure justice for the 298 people on board. An independent, fair and objective probe should be carried out to establish the truth as early as possible, and to bring those responsible to justice.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all families and friends of MH17. - July 21, 2014.

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Even if Pro-Russian rebels did shoot down the plane, I essentially blame the U.S gov and their proxies for this crime. They are the ones who are belligerent enough to ignore all the treaties signed with the post Soviet Union and brought this situation to its head by attempting to encircle Russia with NATO....something the western media (propaganda) outlets conveniently are quiet about. Now probably their wish of entering Ukraine maybe is achieving fruition. Hope Russia stands firm on this not let the western lies and their associated crimes go in vain.

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I think if you understand Ukraine, you would know that Ukranian hate Russian. The past Ukranian president was a Russian proxy, swindling the treasury. That is when the true Ukranian say enough is enough.

Stop blaming the USA. The west is about promoting democracy and not totalitarian. When there is democracy, the citizen reap the benefit. Putin was a KGB and still is a KGB. Europeans trusted him more than USA but now they know he is dangerous to world peace.

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You joking right? U.S funded 5 billion to thwart any real democracy and create an insurgency in the Ukraine and here you are coming up with a story that the ex-Ukrainian President swindled the treasury. The west is about promoting democracy? ha ha ha.

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5 billion. You joking right? Just make friend with a ukrainian fellow and he'll give you a lesson on ukraine.

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So, only your Ukrainian friend is an expert in this issue? Go google the facts since you have gotten all your facts wrong so far.

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You get the real news from people on the ground, not only by reading on the web. Malaysia is hunky dory but if you ask people on the ground, you'll get a different picture of Malaysia.

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Sure, you get a different picture depending on which side of the Russian border you are too. and how do you get facts from people on the ground that U.S funded their Ukraine proxies for regime change to the tune of 5 billion USD without knowing collaboratory evidence if you don't read the reports online? You need to be 'on the ground' for that?

Different picture of Malaysia? What has that got to do with Malaysia? Trying to obfuscate the issue?

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agreed. not to mention the fact that the coup that started this whole mess was US-engineered.

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I totally agree with you. The biggest threat of world peace is USA.

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Blame the manufacturer and supplier of the weapon. Was it USA manufactured. Who had the possession of the missile and who supplied and trained the user. Soon Anwar Ibrahim would be blamed for the mishap. Don't be idiots to rashly blame the USA.

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actually it appears to be a Soviet-made missile. such missiles are used by both rebels and Ukrainians. this is unfortunately one of the unsavoury side-effects of militarism, period.

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Want justice? How about getting our leaders to sign on to the Rome Statute, which establishes the International Criminal Court, and allows for the Malaysian government to file charges of crime against humanity against the perpetrators of the crime. While the West may not be an innocent by-stander in this, it is important that we start holding people accountable for their actions.

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and thank you, fundamentalist religionists for voting me down, you know who you are :)

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I don't want to be "cheong hei". Want can Malaysia do as a small country... get real. I don't know what will be the scenrio 100 years down the road. But i can predict Malaysia can do nothing by tomorrow. What UN can do nothing! In Malaysia people kissing Najib hand then get all the contracts... expected mah.. But we are talking on the

world stage regarding MH17.... ask the Malaysia people to kiss his hand see what will happen regarding MH17...nothing.

Not to far to far like geopolitic, USA, Russia, Panama, Chile, Isreal.....

BIG FISH EAT SMALL FISH, SMALL FISH EAT SHRIMP... ASK LKY IN SINGAPORE. EVEN today the plane is SQ what can Singapore do?

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This is not the first time that non-state actors, sponsored by major or great powers, have played such dastardly roles in heaping human carnage. Nor will it be the last. In fact history is littered with examples of this, including the role of small states, such as Libya when it was ruled by that murderous monster Muammar Gaddafi. When you want to avoid the burden of big wars, you deploy for small wars -- proxy wars. This way sponsoring states can hide, as far as these are now possible to be hidden, the hand of major or great powers. Putin knows this full well (Georgia). So does every American administration in the past (e.g. Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama). Ten years from now the world will still be in a state of post-Cold War flux, with ambiguities about power projections, when and how, become trickier but still, I suggest, not trip over into all-out war. Putin isn't stupid; the egomaniac knows what he's doing. He even knows why he's doing what he's doing. The most frightening thing is that more and more Russians believe in him. And that's what worries the West, Japan, India, and I'm sure even Beijing will be taking particular note this time around.

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I agree with you except that I don't think China or India is worried about Russia. It is both these countries chief weapons supplier and there's a western hi-tech weapon embargo against these countries, mainly China. China, I would think is more concerned about U.S future plans for a Asian pivot and U.S military encirclement of China.

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The American newspapers and broadcasters have a field day with the downing of the Malaysian MH17. Even before the truth as to who actually shot down the plane is established, they wasted no time in seizing the opportunity to launch premature attacks against Russia. Making scandalous claims about Russia with the intention of damaging its reputation is the standard practice of the West led invariably by the US. It's pretty hard to believe anyone would want to deliberately shoot down a Malaysian civilian aircraft. Malaysia is not a participant in the war raging in the Ukraine. It has a friendly relationship with Russia too. The truth will allow us to have a precise picture as to who was responsible. Until it's known, let's not point fingers.

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