

## July 17, 2014: Malaysia Airline Flight 17 Crash

by James Hanisch  
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Even as the search continues for a Malaysia Airlines passenger aircraft which has been unaccountably “missing” since March 8, 2014, another similar disaster is now in the news. Again the aircraft involved is a Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777, and this time the lives of all aboard the plane are known to have been lost. Two hundred and ninety-eight souls — 283 passengers (including three infants) and 15 crew members — were purposely shot down in the course of Flight 17’s scheduled civilian international flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

No one has claimed responsibility for this murderous tragedy. The missile assault took place as the aircraft approached Russia, passing through the skies above Ukraine approximately 31 miles from the Russian border. The wreckage of the plane and the bodily remains of the victims were scattered throughout an extensive crash site roughly 25 miles from the Ukraine-Russia border, in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine (where pro-Russian separatists have been in armed conflict with western-leaning Ukrainians since February 2014).

The separatists have accused the Ukrainian government of shooting down the plane, while Ukrainian government officials have accused both the separatists and the Russian military itself of the crime.

Other flights already airborne at the time of the disaster were diverted away from south-eastern Ukraine. Pilots around the world were immediately alerted to avoid the airspace, and Eurocontrol subsequently closed all routes in the airspace above Donetsk entirely, at all altitudes.

How can such turmoil in Ukraine — and especially the murder of hundreds of innocent people from a variety of countries unrelated to the crisis in Ukraine — be explained? If it was a case of mistaken identity, in which the separatists shot down the plane, mistaking the passenger aircraft for a Ukrainian military transport, then we must call it an act of war. Otherwise, if the innocent victims were intentionally murdered, it was nothing less than an act of terrorism. Either way, it is a sign of our times — the mark of a world which is not at peace, but which rather is being punished by God for its crimes, and which is rapidly descending into chaos.

Our Lady of Fatima has assured us that *only She can help us*, and that without the Consecration of *Russia*, the *world cannot have peace*. When the Consecration requested by Our Lady is properly performed, however, (plainly denoting Russia as the object of the consecration, and involving the participation of all the Catholic bishops of the world) we have Our Lady’s promise that a marvelous era of peace will result, which will be acknowledged throughout the world as a Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May God speed that day, so different from our own fearful days of widening loss of faith and murderous warfare.

In the meantime, while some measure of time and hope remain to us, we must look beyond the present sad situation, toward not only its causes but also their remedy. We must pray for the victims of this recent disaster, but we must also devote ourselves more fervently to Our Lady of Fatima. The Message of Fatima is our only hope. It is the single means given to us to solve the problems in our world today, in 2014. Our daily Rosaries, our First Saturday Communion of Reparation, our sacrifices, and our petitions for the proper Consecration of Russia are more critical with each passing day. It is a matter of life and death for all of us.

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