

# Demand Swells for Straight Answers on the Downing of Malaysian Airlines' MH17 in Ukraine

By [David Swanson](#)

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[War is a Crime](#)

Region: [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#)

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A long list of prominent individuals has signed, a number of organizations will be promoting next week, and you can be one of the first to sign right now, [a petition](#) titled "Call For Independent Inquiry of the Airplane Crash in Ukraine and its Catastrophic Aftermath."

The petition is directed to "All the heads of states of NATO countries, and of Russia and the Ukraine, to Ban-ki Moon and the heads of states of countries on the UN Security Council." And it will be delivered to each of them.

The petition reads:

"Set up an impartial international fact finding inquiry and a public report on the events in Ukraine to reveal the truth of what occurred." "Why is this important?" "It's important because there is so much misinformation and disinformation in the media that we are careening towards a new cold war with Russia over this."

That's not hyperbole. It's the language of U.S. and Russian politicians and media.

Of course, there are undisputed facts that could change people's understanding. Many Americans are unaware of NATO's expansion or of what actions Russia views as aggressive and threatening. But when a particular incident appears to be set up as a proximate cause for war it is well worth our time to insist on an exposure of the facts. Doing so is not to concede that any outcome of the inquiry would justify a war. Rather it is to prevent the imposition of an unproven explanation that makes war more likely.

What if the Gulf of Tonkin had been investigated 50 years ago this month? What if the independent inquiry that Spain wanted into the USS Maine had been allowed? What if Congress hadn't swallowed the one about the babies taken from incubators or that hilarious bit about the vast stockpiles of WMDs? Or, on the other hand, what if everyone had listened to John Kerry unskeptically on Syria last year?

When a Malaysian airplane went down in Ukraine, Kerry immediately blamed Vladimir Putin, but has yet to produce any evidence to back up the accusation. Meanwhile, we learn that the U.S. government is [looking into](#) the possibility that what happened was actually an attempt to assassinate Putin. Those two versions, the one initially announced with no apparent basis and the one reportedly now being investigated in secret, could hardly be more different. That the second one is under consideration makes it appear very likely that any serious proof of the former claim has not been found.

Here's a longer version of the petition:

"At this very moment in history, when so many people and nations around the world are acknowledging the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our planet's hapless stumble into World War I, great powers and their allies are ironically once again provoking new dangers where governments appear to be sleepwalking towards a restoration of old Cold War battles. A barrage of conflicting information is broadcast in the various national and nationalistic media with alternative versions of reality that provoke and stoke new enmities and rivalries across national borders.

"With the U.S. and Russia in possession of over 15,000 of the world's 16,400 nuclear weapons, humanity can ill-afford to stand by and permit these conflicting views of history and opposing assessments of the facts on the ground to lead to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century military confrontation between the great powers and their allies. While sadly acknowledging the trauma suffered by the countries of Eastern Europe from years of Soviet occupation, and understanding their desire for the protection of the NATO military alliance, we the signers of this global call to action also note that the Russian people lost 20 million people during WWII to the Nazi onslaught and are understandably wary of NATO expansion to their borders in a hostile environment. Russia has lost the protection of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which the US abandoned in 2001, and warily observes missile bases metastasizing ever closer to its borders in new NATO member states, while the US rejects repeated Russian efforts for negotiations on a treaty to ban weapons in space, or Russia's prior application for membership in NATO.

"For these reasons, we the peoples, as members of Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organizations, and global citizens, committed to peace and nuclear disarmament, demand that an independent international inquiry be commissioned to review events in Ukraine leading up to the Malaysian jet crash and of the procedures being used to review the catastrophic aftermath. The inquiry should factually determine the cause of the accident and hold responsible parties accountable to the families of the victims and the citizens of the world who fervently desire peace and a peaceful settlement of any existing conflicts. It should include a fair and balanced presentation of what led to the deterioration of U.S. -Russian relations and the new hostile and polarized posture that the U.S. and Russia with their allies find themselves in today.

"The UN Security Council, with US and Russian agreement, has already passed Resolution 2166 addressing the Malaysian jet crash, demanding accountability, full access to the site and a halt to military activity which has been painfully disregarded at various times since the incident. One of the provisions of SC Res 2166 notes that the Council "[s]upports efforts to establish a full, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines." Further, the 1909 revised Convention on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes adopted at the 1899 Hague International Peace Conference has been used successfully to resolve issues between states so that war was avoided in the past. Both Russia and Ukraine are parties to the Convention.

"Regardless of the forum where the evidence is gathered and fairly evaluated, we the undersigned urge that the facts be known as to how we got to this unfortunate state of affairs on our planet today and what might be the solutions. We urge Russia and Ukraine as well as their allies and partners to engage in diplomacy and negotiations, not war and hostile alienating actions. The world can little afford the trillions of dollars in military spending and trillions and trillions of brain cells wasted on war when our very Earth is under

stress and needs the critical attention of our best minds and thinking and the abundance of resources mindlessly diverted to war to be made available for the challenge confronting us to create a livable future for life on earth.”

Here are initial signatories (organizations for identification only):

([Add your name.](#))

Hon. Douglas Roche, OC, Canada  
David Swanson, co-founder, World Beyond War  
Medea Benjamin, Code Pink  
Bruce Gagnon, Global Network Against Nuclear Power and Weapons in Space  
Alice Slater, JD, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, NY  
Professor Francis A. Boyle, University of Illinois College of Law  
Natasha Mayers, Union of Maine Visual Artists  
David Hartsough, co-founder, World Beyond War  
Larry Dansinger, Resources for Organizing and Social Change  
Ellen Judd, Project Peacemakers  
Coleen Rowley, Women Against Military Madness  
Lisa Savage, Code Pink, State of Maine  
Brian Noyes Pulling, M. Div.  
Anni Cooper, Peaceworks  
Kevin Zeese, Popular Resistance  
Leah Bolger, CDR, USN (Ret), Veterans for Peace  
Margaret Flowers, Popular Resistance  
Gloria McMillan, Tucson Balkan Peace Support Group  
Ellen E. Barfield, Veterans for Peace  
Cecile Pineda, author. Devil's Tango: How I Learned the Fukushima Step by Step  
Jill McManus  
Steve Leeper, Visiting professor, Hiroshima Jogakuin University, Nagasaki University, Kyoto University of Art and Design  
William H. Slavick, Pax Christi Maine  
Carol Reilly Urner, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Ann E. Ruthsdottir  
Raymond McGovern, former CIA analyst, VA  
Kay Cumbow  
Steven Starr, Senior Scientist, Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Tiffany Tool, Peaceworkers  
Sukla Sen, Committee for Communal Amnity, Mumbai India  
Felicity Ruby  
Joan Russow, PhD, Coordinator, Global Compliance Research Project  
Rob Mulford, Veterans for Peace, North Star Chapter, Alaska  
Jerry Stein, The Peace Farm, Amarillo, Texas  
Michael Andregg, professor, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Elizabeth Murray, Deputy National Intelligence Officer for the Near East, National Intelligence Council, ret.: Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, Washington  
Robert Shetterly, artist, "Americans Who Tell the Truth," Maine  
Katharine Gun, United Kingdom

Amber Garland, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Beverly Bailey, Richfield, Minnesota  
Stephen McKeown, Richfield, Minnesota  
Darlene M. Coffman, Rochester, Minnesota  
Sister Gladys Schmitz, Mankato, Minnesota  
Bill Rood, Rochester, Minnesota  
Tony Robinson, Editor Pressenza  
Tom Klammer, radio host, Kansas City, Missouri  
Barbara Vaile, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Helen Caldicott, Helen Caldicott Foundation  
Mali Lightfoot, Helen Caldicott Foundation  
Brigadier Vijai K Nair, VSM [Retd] Ph.D. , Magoo Strategic Infotech Pvt Ltd, India  
Kevin Martin, Peace Action  
Jacqueline Cabasso, Western States Legal Foundation, United for Peace and Justice  
Ingeborg Breines, Co-president International Peace Bureau  
Judith LeBlanc, Peace Action  
David Krieger, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation  
Edward Loomis, NSA Cryptologic Computer Scientist (ret.)  
J. Kirk Wiebe, NSA Senior Analyst (ret.), MD  
William Binney, former Technical Director, World Geopolitical & Military Analysis, NSA; co-founder, SIGINT Auto

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