

MH17: The Tragic Misuse of a Tragedy

Use Malaysia's MH17 to make peace instead

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Region: [Russia and FSU](#)

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The government of Ukraine as well as the separatists, NATO/U.S. and very many leading Western mainstream media seem all to know who has caused the tragedy. Putin believes it was caused indirectly by the West.

Given the fact that very few, if any, people or institutions *can* know who did it with enough details, data and precision to accuse anyone, *the MH17 tragedy has been misused to an extent that can itself only be termed tragic.*

The misuse is tragic because it is a catastrophe for close to 300 people, their relatives and friends. Silence – of both verbal and military weapons – and empathy would have been appropriate.

Anyone pointing fingers and calling it a terrorist act at this point is irresponsibly or should present convincing evidence.

Secondly, the blame game makes the necessary road to peace and security even more difficult.

An All Party Peace Process should come out of MH17 and the civil war

It would have been so much more civilised to use the MH 17 tragedy to say:

This is the moment for all of us to come together – Kiev, Eastern Ukraine, Russia, the EU and the U.S.; we call upon the UN perhaps with the OSCE to convene a meeting with all parties – including civil society.

There they shall voice their *grievances*, say what they *fear* and give their *priorities* and, step by step, begin to discuss ceasefire, ceasefire arrangements, monitoring and dialogue (*not* negotiate) and brainstorm about *future* arrangement they could all live with.

I would call it an *All Party Peace Process, APPP*, within a time horizon of 12-24 months.

Its first step *must* be that arms fall silent and that that silence is kept by a carpet of *several thousand international military and civilian monitors*. Fear must go before anyone will meet and talk.

We must understand that the alternative to such an approach – or something similar – is major war.

It will be a continued war, something like Yugoslavia but with the added risk of a military confrontation along Ukraine's borders.

It will lead to boundless hatred among people who are otherwise very close and don't have natural – only political, nationalist – reasons to hate.

It will mean generations of reconciliation work – again – in Europe.

Results of 1989 - 2014

The situation has moved close, very close, to a new Cold War.

Since 1989 this has been caused more by NATO's expansion than by Russia. It is *Russia* that now has its former adversary at its doorstep; it is not Russia that has expanded a military nuclear-based alliance to the doorsteps of, say, the Baltic Sea, Germany, Austria, Turkey, Iran or the United States.

The Western *winner* has failed miserably in creating a modern version of *common security* and *build confidence* with Russia, the *loser*.

Interfering in Ukraine, instigating regime change and seeking to get Ukraine into NATO and the EU sooner instead of later is a proof of that wrong-headed approach since 1989.

Therefore, it can be argued, the situation today is *more dangerous* than the old Cold War. For all the believers in the idea of peace through balance, it must be frightening that Russia's military expenditures are only 7-8% of NATO's.

A new hot war

You may not agree with this way of seeing it. But you *must* anyhow share the view *that a peace process today is better than a major war tomorrow*.

So let's come together in creative thinking about the future rather than the past.

Even if the West thinks that it is right and Putin wrong *does right make might?*

To show just how right it is and how strong it is (sometimes called hubris) is the West and its citizens willing to endure a new Cold War with a risk *higher* than in the old Cold War days that it will turn hot?

To get a totally ruined Ukraine into NATO?

Another 50 years of animosity and hatred between Russia and the EU/NATO?

A Russia that allies with Asia/BRICS and turns its back on Europe?

A war that devastate our economies?

Perhaps Russian terrorists aiming their actions at Western Europe because Russia is too weak to fight a war with NATO?

Nuclear confrontation?

Think a little – is *that* in anyone's interest?

The devil: the belief in violence as a solution

Am I painting the devil on the wall? In a sense, yes, because *the devil in all this is violence, the belief in getting your way by destroying what you don't like.*

But even if a driver has the right because of a green traffic light, is it so smart to exercise that right if another car is approaching in high speed from the side, the driver ignoring the light?

Characteristic of all conflict situations is that the parties:

- a) lose the ability to foresee the consequences of their own actions and the opponents reaction and
- b) go for a tit-for-tat thinking that
- c) makes the opponent the main target while forgetting what the conflict itself was all about and
- d) get more and more convinced they are right and, therefore, tend to
- e) escalate the tension or violence.

Everyone in a conflict usually has some good points, some justifiable arguments. The problem is that, taken together *and* pursued by violence, they end us all up in war.

That is the other devil in all this.

MH17 as a wake up call to a peace process

You and I care about human lives. Let's think of ways to honour those killed onboard MH17 so their deaths serve something good instead of more war.

If we *use* instead of misuse the MH17 tragedy we shall now focus on the thousands or tens of thousands not yet killed but who *will* be killed and wounded in the looming larger war in Ukraine. If we don't stop to think now.

We can't save the lives of the MH17 passengers but we can prevent a future mass human suffering that is war.

Let MH17 be the wake up call that takes the main actors back from the abyss they are dangerously close to and taking us all with them into.

One road to peace is the APPP I suggest.

Look to the future and tell me what *your* constructive proposals are.

Jan Oberg, TFF director, dr. hc.

TFF provides research and public education related to the basic UN Charter norm that "peace shall be established by peaceful means".

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