

# The MH17 Crash: Washington Wants a “Tribunal” Without an Independent Investigation

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*A prior Russia-drafted UN MH17 resolution already calls for an independent international investigation – yet it is Ukraine and the US which are withholding possibly useful data. So who’s actually an obstacle to clearing up the issue?*

*Russia bashing season is at its peak in Western press today after Russia vetoed a UN Security Council resolution calling for an international tribunal to prosecute those responsible for the shooting down of MH17 over Ukraine last year.*

Russia’s veto is being presented as a shameful confession of guilt. However, as usual the Western press uses half-truths, hypocrisy and double standards in its spinning of the facts.

First and foremost a tribunal and an investigation are two completely different things. No one in the Western press bothered to remember that immediately after the disaster, the UN Security Council passed Russian drafted Resolution 2166 that among other things:

3. Supports efforts to establish a full, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines” and

11. Demands that those responsible for this incident be held to account and that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability.

However more than a year after the tragedy the investigation has been far from “thorough” and not in full “accordance with international aviation guidelines”.

In an unprecedented move, Kiev has to this day refused to hand over the recording of Dnepropetrovsk tower communications, that would show the full picture of what was going on in the skies above Donbass.

Furthermore, since the start of the Donbass conflict in March of 2014, US has had satellites over the region, but has to this day released only Twitter-based evidence as proof of Russia’s involvement.

William Hearst, in the run up to the Spanish-American War was famous for saying “You furnish the pictures and I’ll furnish the war”. Unfortunately, when it comes to covering Russia-Ukraine crisis in general and the MH17 tragedy in particular, Western press has thrown the idea of investigative journalism out the window, and returned to the yellow press standards of early 20th century – “You furnish the tweets and I’ll furnish the war.”

Minutes after the crash, while the wreckage was still smoldering, the Western press knew for a fact who was responsible - Russia. No one cared about the fact that a few days before the tragedy Ukrainian TV showed Ukrainian BUKs in the area (now Ukraine says it sold all its BUKs years earlier, despite ample video evidence to the contrary), or that Kiev routed planes over east Ukraine despite obvious dangers of civil war on the ground - "Putin killed my child" plain and simple.

So this proposed tribunal was just another PR-stunt by the West to put Russia into a corner that would reinforce the "evilness" of Putin's regime, but would in absolutely no way affect the investigation. But who needs facts and proof when blame has already been assigned minutes after the tragedy?

Twisting and ignoring facts is only part of Western media hypocrisy, however. If Russia's veto is proof of Russia's involvement, then, by that logic, Canada's, Ukraine's and the US's "no" vote on last year's UN resolution "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance " proves that those three countries are Nazi-racist-xenophobes.

By the way, two out of three of the above mentioned countries have themselves shot down civilian aircraft.

In October 2001 Ukraine shot down a Russian Tu-154 over the Black Sea killing all 78 civilians aboard. While initially denying involvement, then-president Kuchma had the following to say about the tragedy:

Take a look around. What is going on in the world and in Europe. We are not the first or the last ones [to shoot down a civilian plane]. No need to make a tragedy out of this mistake. Mistakes happen all the time. Even bigger mistakes than this one.

The United States, too, has shot down civilian liners - an Iran Air flight 655 in July 1988 over Iranian airspace. After Iran called for the United Nations Security Council to condemn the United States for the downing, then vice president George H.W. Bush was even more blunt than Kuchma:

I will never apologize for the United States — I don't care what the facts are... I'm not an apologize-for-America kind of guy.

But none of these present or historical facts are important to today's Western press. They are out on a mission to stoke up tensions and create hatred, and this UN vote was expertly played out just for that: for the picture of Russia vetoing an illegal and unnecessary resolution. "You furnish the pictures and I'll furnish the war"?

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