

Dutch Government Takes Russia to European Court Over MH17

July 10, 2020



A court in the Hague is also presiding over a murder trial against three Russians and one Ukrainian national in connection with MH17. **EPA / Robin Van Lonkhuijsen / POOL**

The Dutch government is taking Russia to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) over the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine in 2014.

Analysts [say](#) countries very rarely bring lawsuits against other countries in the Strasbourg-based court, with only 24 so-called “inter-state applications” filed in its nearly 70-year history.

“Achieving justice for the 298 victims of the downing of Flight MH17 is and will remain the government’s highest priority,” Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok [said](#) in a statement.

“By taking this step today — bringing a case before the ECHR and thus supporting the applications of the next of kin as much as we can — we are moving closer to this goal,” Blok said.

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Today, NL submits an inter-State application against Russia at the European Court of Human Rights, for its role in the downing of MH17. By doing this, the government is seeking to offer maximum support to the cases brought by next of kin of MH17 victims. <https://t.co/2KXuWRqL3A>

— Stef Blok (@ministerBlok) [July 10, 2020](#)

Prosecutors and international investigators say a Russian-made BUK surface-to-air missile hit the Boeing 777 that was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur on July 17, 2014.

Russia continues to deny allegations that it was involved in shooting down MH17.

Russian officials have not yet responded to the Dutch government's announcement of an ECHR suit.

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