



FIVE-PAGE SPECIAL REPORT ATTACK ON MH17

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Irate West demands Putin's help

BRENDAN NICHOLSON
STEFANIE BALOGH

MOSCOW faces growing international condemnation and isolation as world leaders intensify demands for Russian President Vladimir Putin to co-operate fully with the investigation into the destruction of MH17 and allow the recovery of bodies.

Leaders believe it is almost certain the Malaysia Airlines flight, which was carrying 298 people, including 37 Australian citizens and residents, was shot down over rebel-held territory in the eastern Ukraine by a Russian-made missile in the hands of pro-Russian separatists.

The international community is outraged over Mr Putin's denial of any Russian involvement and his refusal to support an investigation or to exert influence over pro-Russian militia controlling the crash site.

Tony Abbott and his British and New Zealand counterparts as well as the US Secretary of State John Kerry and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte are united in their demands for Mr Putin to co-operate, with Mr Rutte saying he had told the Russian leader "time is running out for you to show the world that you have good intentions".

Nations including Britain are holding out the prospect of tougher economic sanctions against Russia and military assistance for Ukraine if Moscow does not co-operate and move to end the crisis on its border.

"If Mr Putin does not change his approach to Ukraine, then Europe and the West must fundamentally change our approach to Russia," British Prime Minister David Cameron said. "This is not about military action, plainly. But it is time to make our power, influence and resources count."

Mr Abbott, who last night convened a meeting of the National Security Committee of cabinet in response to the downing of MH17, said earlier that Russia "can't wash its hands of this".

"My fear is that Russia will say the right thing, but that on the ground, interference with the site, interference with investigators, interference with the dignified treatment of bodies will continue: that's my fear," the Prime Minister said.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop will receive intelligence briefings in Washington today on how the US believes the aircraft was shot down and who was most likely responsible.

As shock turned to grief and anger, there are fears the crash site has already been comprehensively looted and that personal belongings and vital evidence, including the aircraft's "black box" flight recorders, have been removed.

A top Ukrainian official said the government and pro-Russia separatists had reached a preliminary agreement to remove the bodies from the crash site in the face of international pressure.

The Ukrainian government and the separatists accuse each other of firing a surface-to-air missile that brought down MH17. The flight was on its way from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Volodymyr Groisman said the "preliminary" accord would let Ukrainian emergency services and international observers remove the bodies and transport



Rin Norris, centre, is comforted by family and friends, at her son Mo Maslin's junior football club in Perth



Mo's father Anthony Maslin



Mo was a regular for the Scarborough Sea Eagles



Mo, 12, Otis, 8 and Evie, 10, were killed with their grandfather Nick Norris when MH17 was brought down

Team Mo shares the grief for a life lost

PAIGE TAYLOR

ALMOST paralysed with grief over the deaths of their three children, Perth couple Rin Norris and Anthony Maslin were surrounded and supported by friends when they appeared at a junior football match to speak with team mates of their eldest son yesterday.

Mo Maslin, 12, should have been in the forward pocket yesterday when the Scarborough Sea Eagles Year 7 team took on the Wembley Cats. It was a beloved family ritual to watch the slight and plucky Mo doing his best for the club each Sunday in winter. But Mo, sister Evie, 10, brother Otis, eight and their grandfather Nick Norris were killed when MH17 was shot down over Ukraine on Thursday.

Ms Norris' father was bringing them home for the beginning of school. She and Mr Maslin had been due to reunite with their children back in Perth today. Instead the couple arrived home from Amsterdam overnight on Saturday, ushered through back exits to avoid waiting media from around the world.

The Maslin children's deaths have been a lightning rod for bewilderment and anger at the MH17 attack. The New York Post used a full-page picture of Mo, Evie and Otis smiling at a family get-together last October to illustrate the scale of the tragedy on its front page: "Little Lives Lost".

Without their small forward and with the terrible news still so fresh, Mo's team mates had by Saturday decided to go ahead with yesterday's fixture match near the Maslin's home in Perth's coastal northern suburbs.

Coach Troy Ramshaw was shaken and in faltering voice as he contemplated what to say to the boys but when the time came he spoke clearly and gently.

"Mo loved his footy," Mr Ramshaw told the young players before urging them to have a good game. They were beaten 116-18 and nobody cared. Mr Ramshaw told them they had done well.

Around Australia yesterday, families were coming to terms with the toll of last week's tragedy — 37 Australian citizens and residents killed when flight MH17 was brought down over Eastern Ukraine.

In Sydney, Tony Abbott and his wife, Margie, joined Governor-General Peter Cosgrove, NSW Governor Marie Bashir, Bill Shorten and his deputy, Tanya Plibersek, federal Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull, and other dignitaries at a Catholic mass at St Mary's Cathedral attended by more than 1000 members of the public. A few kilometres further east, devastated friends and Kinross Bay schoolgirls came to remember Sister Philomena Tiernan, a boarding director at the school.

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Господин президент, помогите нам вернуть наших граждан на родину*

CHARLES MIRANDA
DONETSK

THE loss of the 298 people on-board Flight MH17 — including dozens who call Australia home — has been compounded by the callous treatment of their bodies, with Tony Abbott barely managing to disguise his fury at the lack of dignity afforded to the victims.

The Prime Minister said Australians woke yesterday to disturbing images of the crash site being "absolutely trampled and we saw bodies being put into bags and carted off to who knows where".

Last night's meeting of the National Security Committee of cabinet in Canberra was dominated by Australian concerns over the handling of all the bodies at the "chaotic" crash site, and particularly the 37 Australian residents and citizens who were travelling on MH17.

"Our discussion was dominated by our concerns to ensure that those bodies are treated with respect, are taken to a place where a proper investigation can be carried out because we owe it to the dead, all the dead," Mr Abbott told the Nine Network.

"We owe it to the families, all



Bodybags containing MH17 victims are loaded onto trucks

the families, to do everything in our power to respect the bodies, to find the truth and to ensure justice is done."

Last night, some progress was made when Ukraine said it had reached a "preliminary" agreement with pro-Russian separatists to transport the remains from the crash site, although international crash investigators were still waiting for the formal go-ahead to start their work.

There have been reports of looting at the crash site, which is spread over several square kilometres, with separatists restricting access to

international crash investigators and journalists. There were reports last night that armed rebels had forced emergency workers to hand over all 196 bodies recovered. The location of the black box flight recorders, meanwhile, remains unclear.

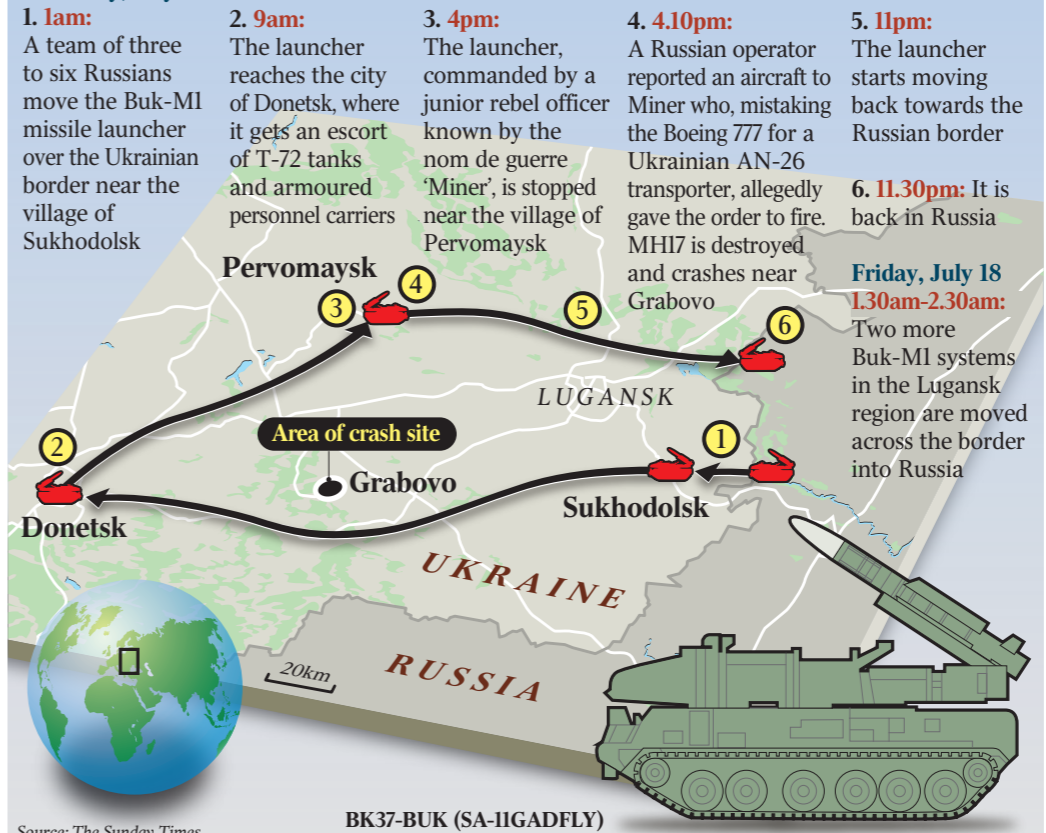
Those who witnessed the mass murder — the villagers in the poor community of Donetsk, in Ukraine's east — have only just begun to deal with the trauma.

At lunchtime last Thursday, Continued on Page 5

* Translation: Mr President, help us bring our people home

ANATOMY OF AN ATTACK

Thursday, July 17



Missiles from Russia, with hate

BOJAN PANCEVSKI
THE TIMES

TRUNDLING quietly through the fields in the pitch black of the early morning, the surface-to-air missile launcher secretly crossed over the Russian border and into war-torn eastern Ukraine.

The radar-controlled missile system — known by the Russians as the Buk-M1 and by NATO forces as the SA-11 Gadfly — bristled with four missiles capable of shooting down enemy aircraft flying at up to 22,000m.

It was 1am last Thursday. Accompanying the vehicle, according to Ukrainian intelligence, was a team of three to six Russian

military operators. Their mission was to help the pro-Russian separatists regain the initiative on the battlefield after weeks in which troops loyal to Petro Poroshenko, the new Ukrainian President, had been making dramatic gains.

Potential targets for the missiles were Ukrainian military transport aircraft being used to re-supply government troops.

But 15 hours after slipping across the Russian border, in what appears to be a catastrophic mistake, the weapon is believed instead to have destroyed Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 as it flew at about 33,000ft (10,000m) above the war zone. All 298 people on board, more than 80 of them children, were killed.

Using intercepted mobile phone calls and satellite imagery, senior Ukrainian officials say they can accurately reconstruct the sequence of events that led to the tragedy.

Their claims are vigorously denied by the Kremlin and Russian-supporting militants, but US and British intelligence officials are satisfied the airliner was downed by a missile fired by rebels in eastern Ukraine.

According to the Ukrainian account, the launcher crossed the porous border with Russia near the village of Sukhodolsk.

At 9am, the launcher, carried on the back of a low-loading lorry, reached the city of Donetsk, the Continued on Page 4

Israel escalates Gaza campaign

JOHN LYONS
MIDDLE EAST
CORRESPONDENT

ISRAEL expanded its military assault on Gaza yesterday as the death toll of Palestinian civilians escalated dramatically and thousands fled the enclave.

The intensity of aerial and naval bombing made it difficult for ambulances to reach border areas, as the dead and wounded were left lying in the streets.

The death toll from the bombardment rose to at least 367 Palestinians, most of them civilians, with at least 73 children among the dead. More than 2000 Pal-

estinians have been injured. On the Israeli side, five soldiers and one civilian were killed over the weekend. Two Israeli soldiers died in one incident when Palestinian militants tunneled their way into Israel.

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Unions' strategy split

EXCLUSIVE

EWIN HANNAN
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE nation's biggest blue collar union, the Australian Workers Union, has withdrawn \$250,000 in financial support from the ACTU, as other key unions re-

fuse to commit to paying a levy used to fund the peak union body's political strategy. The revelations reflect tensions at the senior levels of the union movement about how to best combat the government, which is waging a multi-pronged assault on the institutional power of unions.

FULL REPORT P7

Rinehart eyes Fairfax

EXCLUSIVE

SHARRI MARKSON
MEDIA EDITOR

FAIRFAX Media investor and Australia's richest person Gina Rinehart is believed to be considering buying Fairfax if she can find the right people to run it.

The Australian can reveal Mrs Rinehart, whose companies hold 14.99 per cent of Fairfax, has approached business associates for suggestions on who could better manage the newspaper publisher or sit on the board in the event that she did decide to buy Fairfax.

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