



Security Council

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Letter dated 10 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of July. With reference to Council resolution [2166 \(2014\)](#) and previous letters to the Council dated 1 and 28 August 2014, 9 September and 16 December 2014, 20 July and 13 October 2015, 28 September 2016, 5 July 2017, 24 and 25 May 2018, and 20 June 2019 and 6 March 2020, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

Inter-State application and intervention at the European Court of Human Rights

Today, the Netherlands has decided to submit an inter-State application to the European Court of Human Rights against the Russian Federation for its role in the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17. In parallel with that application, the Government of the Netherlands will submit an intervention in the individual applications to the European Court of Human Rights submitted by the victims' next of kin against the Russian Federation for the downing of flight MH17.

The Government of the Netherlands wishes to ensure that, when considering these cases, the Court has at its disposal information in possession of the Government of the Netherlands that is relevant to these cases, as well as the views of the Netherlands with respect to this information. In taking this action, the Netherlands is offering maximum support to the individual applications submitted to the European Court of Human Rights by the next of kin against the Russian Federation. By means of this inter-State application, the Netherlands stands by all 298 victims of the downing of flight MH17 and their next of kin.

The inter-State application to the European Court of Human Rights relates to the responsibility of the Russian Federation for its role in the downing of flight MH17. This is a new step in our efforts to establish the truth, achieve justice and hold those responsible to account. This is and will remain a priority for the Dutch Government.

The individual applications to the European Court of Human Rights submitted by the next of kin, the inter-State application of the Netherlands to the European Court of Human Rights, the ongoing criminal investigation and the criminal trial against four suspects for their role in the downing of flight MH17, and the trilateral meetings involving Australia, the Netherlands and the Russian Federation remain separate tracks in the pursuit of truth, justice and accountability.



Trilateral meetings

The Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to reiterate that it remains committed to continuing the ongoing trilateral meetings between the Russian Federation on the one hand and Australia and the Netherlands on the other.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Karel J.G. **van Oosterom**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
