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Russian Blames Ukraine for Downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight

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Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu met with his Malaysian counterpart on Wednesday and said that Ukraine bears full responsibility for the downing of Malaysian airlines flight MH17.

"If Ukraine solved its internal problems without the military involvement, without last month's bloodshed, without heavy artillery weaponry, including rockets, without aviation, I am sure that this tragedy would not have happened," said the Russian Minister.

On July 17, Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, that was traveling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, crashed in Donetsk, at the east of Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board.

A preliminary report by the Dutch Safety Board said on Tuesday that the plane was hit by a large number of high energy fragments before turning into pieces.

The Ukrainian government has said that the plane was shot down by federalist rebels that have taken over eastern regions of the country, but failed to give any proof of this.

The rebels have said they do not own the fire power to take down a Boeing plane.

Shoigu said that, according to the investigations, an Ukrainian combat jet was detected in close approach to the MH17 shortly before it crashed.

"The disaster took place in the airspace of Ukraine, which bears full responsibility for what had happened," said Shoigu.

