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**The International Academy of Trial Lawyers Supports the European Court of Human Rights' Judgment  
in Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia**

*Calls for Full and Prompt Compliance with Court Orders*

Yesterday, the European Court of Human Rights gave its judgment in the inter-State cases of [Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia](#). The Court unanimously ruled that Russia violated Articles 2, 3, and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights. It also confirmed Russia's responsibility for the downing of flight MH17 in July 2014, and for widespread atrocities against Ukrainian civilians, including the abduction of children. [The Court ordered](#) Russia to free all remaining Ukrainian detainees at once and help create an independent system to find and return kidnapped Ukrainian children. The decision on just satisfaction for MH17 families is forthcoming.

[The International Academy of Trial Lawyers](#) recognizes this decision as an affirmation that law prevails over force. The Court has vindicated principles central to [the Rule of Law](#), that every person and every State is bound by law, and their conduct can be challenged and judged in a court of law.

The Academy commends the Grand Chamber for its thorough fact-finding and for ordering concrete remedies that prioritize accountability and the restoration of human rights.

“The ruling sends an unmistakable message that unlawful aggression will not escape legal scrutiny,” said Joe H. Tucker, Jr., President of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. “The Academy urges full and prompt compliance with the Court’s orders and calls on the international community to continue supporting judicial mechanisms that safeguard human rights and deter future violations.”

Academy Fellow and Secretary of International Relations, Antoinette Collignon, who serves on the MH17 legal team, added, “The Court’s ruling honors the victims, offers hope for those still suffering in Ukraine, and fortifies the Rule of Law worldwide.”

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