

“Solidarity Rally - Stop the Bloodshed in Ukraine”

When: Saturday, 18 July, 3 – 5 p.m. (one-year anniversary of downing of Flight MH-17)

Where: Green Lake Park Aqua Theatre – small concrete grandstand at southern tip of lake)

Who: Ukrainian and Russian communities hosting, and inviting Poles, Georgians, Czechs and Baltic nations and also nations which suffered deaths of their citizens in the MH-17 Flight tragedy. While focus is on need to urgently prevent all-out war in Ukraine, we will commemorate the MH-17 Flight tragedy (of 17 July) and reach out to the Dutch community (197 of the 298 people killed were Dutch, including one Dutch Senator), Malaysian community (44 killed), Australian community (27 killed), anti-AIDS community (en route to conference, several died on board including famous researcher Joep Lange).

Message: Prevent Full-scale War in Ukraine; Stop the Bloodshed; Justice for MH-17 Victims

Details: To raise awareness in the American community about the urgent need for action to prevent full-scale war between Ukraine and Russia. Russian-backed fighters continue pushing forward in Ukraine; and full-scale war is likely imminent. Minsk II is constantly being violated but there are no specified penalties for violation. High-level diplomacy by America and Europe takes note, but takes no direct action – no new formal diplomatic steps. The U.S. government must be pressed to treat signs of imminent war urgently with stepped-up high-level diplomacy focused on working together with Europeans to find effective leverage to bring peace, not war. Effective, urgent action for de-escalation is needed and lacking.

Media: Local TV stations, but particularly focus on NPR (National Public Radio) , as NPR reaches thousands of educated listeners and can give much more in-depth understanding – both educates and raises awareness. Seattle Times also a focus.

Goals:

- a) To raise public awareness of the ongoing war in Ukraine and possible escalation,
- b) Commemorate the MH17 airline tragedy and need to support the 5-country initiative (Netherlands, Malaysia, Australia, Ukraine and Belgium) to form a UN-backed international tribunal for justice,
- c) Raise public support for concrete steps for putting pressure for de-escalation of war: sanctioning Russian elites, seizing regime-connected assets as reparations for the seizure of Crimea, increasing development aid for Ukraine, helping Ukraine defend itself, support Europeans in taking direction action related to Minsk II Peace Plan violation, etc (specific US government policy responses)

Demand: Demand for citizens, state politicians at national level and White House/Congress to pressure the US/European coalition : **Invasion and War in Europe Must Stop Now – Effective Leverage on Putin Must De-Escalate the War.**

Details: The peace process has failed, urgent renewed efforts needed. Sanctions having an effect, but limited . Supply of military arms also a complex issue. Not clear if current strategies are moving Ukraine and Russia away from war or closer to all-out war. Minsk II Peace Plan has no teeth in it, no penalties for its violation; Putin using the time to re-arm. Diplomats are taking half-measures in Ukraine-Russia crisis at the peril of Europe and America. Effective leverage on Putin must be found – new strategies urgently needed to bring peace.