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## AIDS conference honours victims of jet crash

**MELBOURNE:** An international AIDS conference opened in Australia with a tribute to several delegates who were killed en route to the gathering when their plane was shot down over Ukraine.

Officials at the opening ceremony for the 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne held a moment of silence for the six AIDS researchers and activists killed aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

Among the passengers was prominent Dutch researcher Joep Lange, former president of the International AIDS Society, and World Health Organization spokesman Glenn Thomas, based in Geneva.

Around 12,000 scientists and activists from 200 countries are attending the conference to discuss the latest developments in HIV and AIDS research.

The president of the International Aids Society, Françoise Barre-Sinoussi, dedicated the conference to those who were killed. — AP



**Paying tribute:** (From left) Head delegates Chris Beyrer, Barre-Sinoussi, Michael Sidibe, Brent Allan, Ayu Oktariani, Sharon Lewin and Michael Kirby attending the opening press conference in Melbourne. — EPA