

The Netherlands Briefing: September & October 2024

Reporting period: 1st September - 31st October

Rising Discrimination of Muslims in The Netherlands

EU study shows a concerning trend in Dutch social cohesion: 55% of Muslim population reported discrimination incidents. Important context: this research was conducted before October 2023, indicating baseline tensions prior to the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Numbers are likely higher now. Educational sector shows particular vulnerability with 15% reporting school-based discrimination, affecting social integration and economic participation. The National Coordinator warns of the deteriorating situation.

Hate Crime in Urk: Elderly Muslim Attacked in his Home

Violent hate crime reported against an elderly Muslim resident in Urk, Flevoland - a region known as the centre of evangelical Zionism in The Netherlands. The incident, which appears racially and religiously motivated, occurred after several days of targeted harassment, culminating in a physical assault at the victim's home by a suspected 20-year-old local resident. The victim sustained head trauma requiring hospitalisation, while the incident also impacted his wife, who fainted, and traumatised their disabled child. The incident's complete absence from local, regional, and national media coverage is particularly noteworthy given the community's religious-political context and current global tensions.

Hate Crime in The Hague: 82-year Old Attacked by Neighbour

A 82-year-old Turkish-Dutch resident, Cemile Telli, was violently assaulted by her Dutch neighbour in The Hague on October 28, requiring intensive care hospitalisation. Despite the severity of the attack, the perpetrator was released after only two days in detention. The victim, who has lived in the Netherlands for 57 years, continues to face harassment and threats in her neighbourhood. The incident has triggered significant community protests regarding inadequate police response to hate crimes.

Rutte Takes Office as NATO Secretary General

Former Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte has officially assumed the role of NATO Secretary General. Previously, we highlighted his unconditional support for Israel's genocide in Gaza, which appeared to signal his ambitions for a NATO leadership role following his term as Prime Minister.

Indictment against 1000 IDF soldiers at the ICC

The Hind Rajab Foundation has filed an unprecedented indictment with the International Criminal Court against 1,000 identified Israeli military personnel for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Gaza. Barrister Haroon Raza submitted the case on behalf of the foundation, supported by over 8,000 pieces of evidence including videos, audio recordings, and forensic reports.

Of particular security relevance is the identification of 33 dual nationals among the indicted, including 12 French, 12 American, 4 Canadian, 3 British, and 2 Dutch citizens. The indictment has been shared with several countries including Ireland, South Africa, and Iran. The Foundation is calling for immediate arrest and prosecution of these individuals in their respective countries.

Parliamentary Questions Raised Over Pro-Palestine Protest Security Group

The Protest Alliance Watch (PAW), an initiative by Muslim Rights Watch Netherlands, has come under pressure after articles about the group sparked outrage among right-wing and Zionist circles. The group was formed to protect Pro-Palestine demonstrations from excessive police violence and potential attacks, and has been active since May. The evangelical-Zionist party SGP has submitted parliamentary questions to the Ministry of Interior about their stance on PAW and whether they plan to ban the group. The Ministry has yet to respond to these questions.

PAW has responded by emphasising they work in close coordination with police and protest organisers as an extension of demonstration-stewards, which organisers are required to provide by law. The organisation states they are specifically trained in de-escalation and contribute to ensuring peaceful demonstrations, receiving consistent appreciation from police peace corps for their efforts, maintaining that all their activities fall within legal frameworks.

Rotterdam Barrister Faces Bar Investigation Over Palestine Activism

Barrister Haroon Raza faces questioning by the Rotterdam Bar Association's Dean regarding his involvement with Protest Alliance Watch (PAW). This development follows a recent reprimand from the Bar Association over a social media post in which Raza referred to IDF soldiers as "murderers and pigs" and disclosed the identity of one of the indicted soldiers.

Raza maintains that these actions against him are part of a coordinated campaign to secure his disbarment, allegedly orchestrated by Zionist barrister Loonstein in response to Raza's Palestine advocacy work. The Bar Association has scheduled the questioning for the end of the month.

Trapped in Gaza: Dutch Government Sued Over Failed Evacuations

Shady Okasha, who travelled to Gaza after October 7, 2023, to care for his parents, is unable to return to the Netherlands due to the ongoing siege and Israeli blockade. Barrister Samira Sabir, representing both Okasha and Abed al Attar in similar cases, is initiating legal proceedings against the Dutch government, accusing them of prioritising diplomatic relations with Israel over the safety of their citizens. The Israeli Defense Ministry continues to block their evacuation requests, citing unspecified security concerns.

Netherlands Bars Samidoun Speaker from University Event

The Dutch government has prevented Mohammed Khatib of the pro-Palestinian organization Samidoun from speaking at Radboud University in Nijmegen. The decision follows a broader European trend, as the cabinet supports a German proposal to place Samidoun on the European sanctions list. Dutch authorities are currently consulting with the Public Prosecution Service and intelligence services about their approach towards similar organisations.