

The Netherlands briefing

November / December 2023

Dutch Court allows government to continue sending military parts to Israel amid war on Gaza

- A Dutch court has ruled that the Dutch state is not required to halt the supply of F-35 parts to Israel, despite a lawsuit by advocacy groups.

The court acknowledged that, based on public images, news reports, and statements made by Israeli ministers about responses to Hamas' actions on October 7, 2023, it appears evident that Israel is carrying out violations of humanitarian law.

- The judge understood the perception of the state being wilfully ignorant, as argued by Oxfam Novib and others, for not considering this as a primary concern.

Despite this, the court ruled that there was no conclusive evidence proving the Netherlands' F-35 fighter jets being involved in these violations, allowing the continuation of their supply. The requests by Oxfam Novib and others to halt the supply were denied.

- The court's decision is being appealed.

Court dismisses complaint against Dutch government inaction on Dutch-Moroccan man's wrongful detention in Spain

- Muslim Rights Watch lodged a complaint against the Dutch government for not intervening during a Dutch-Moroccan man's wrongful 56-day detention in Spain on terrorism suspicions.
- The court dismissed the complaint, stating that the Dutch government isn't required to directly communicate with Spain to amend the complainant's records or clear him from local legal actions and an entry ban.

Nonetheless, Muslim Rights Watch sees this as a strategic victory, as the court ordered the Dutch government to disclose its past communications with Spanish authorities to the complainant, ensuring transparency in the process.

Far-Right PVV Ideologue Elected as Speaker of Dutch House of Representatives

- Martin Bosma, a key ideologue of the far-right PVV (Party for Freedom), has been elected as the new Speaker of the Dutch House of Representatives.

This follows the strongly anti-Islam party's strong showing in the 2023 general elections, where it won the highest number of seats of any party.

- Bosma's election followed a debate marked by critical questions about his party's negative comments on various institutions and its anti-Islam stances.

Terror-Threat Level Raised, war on Gaza among factors

- The National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security (NCTV) in the Netherlands has elevated the national terror threat level from 3 to 4, indicating a 'substantial threat', as detailed in their December 2023 report.

This increase is attributed to several factors: the ongoing war on Gaza, the Dutch government's close ties with Israel, and instances of Qur'an desecrations in Europe.

The rapport states the elevation is primarily due to increased threats from radicalised Muslims and right-wing extremists.

Ministry of Justice apologises and compensates Muslim employee fired for sharing Muslim news outlet

- The Ministry of Justice has issued an apology and agreed to provide compensation to a Muslim employee who was previously dismissed due to a video by the news outlet 5Pillars which he posted online.

- This resolution comes following the intervention of the Muslim advocacy group, Muslim Rights Watch Nederland, advocating on behalf of the affected employee.