



April 25, 2013

The Honorable Luis C deBaca
Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ambassador,


Accountability for government officials who participate in human trafficking is a cornerstone of the U.S. and international strategy to fight human trafficking. Corrupt government officials use their power to protect traffickers, exploit victims, and/or create a climate of impunity such that victims are unable to access justice. Consequently, I am very concerned that The Netherlands since 2007 has refused to formally investigate serious and corroborated child sex trafficking allegations against Mr. Joris Demmink, the recently retired Secretary General of the Dutch Ministry of Justice. Mr. Demmink has been accused by two Turkish men of raping them when they were adolescents in Turkey. The Netherlands' repeated failure to conduct a formal investigation is unconscionable for a Tier 1 country and should be noted in this year's Trafficking in Persons Report narrative and tier ranking.

Mr. Mustafa and Mr. Osman, the alleged victims, are currently utilizing their last legal option to compel a formal investigation in The Netherlands into their allegations against Mr. Demmink. An October 2012 letter (enclosed) from the Dutch Minister of Security and Justice to the Dutch Parliament states repeatedly that there was "no cause to launch a criminal investigation." In other words, the Dutch prosecutors tasked with looking into the allegations were not given subpoena, travel, and other authority required by Dutch law for formal investigations. If "nothing has been found to substantiate the accusations" it is very likely because The Netherlands has failed to look.


Dutch authorities never interviewed Mr. Mustafa or Mr. Yasin, another alleged victim who has come forward but who is not formally a part of the litigation. Dutch authorities failed to interview a single one of the Turkish government officials who came forward on behalf of the alleged victims—including the former chief of police of Istanbul and a security officer who were responsible for Mr. Demmink's security in Turkey. The security officer openly admits to procuring Mr. Mustafa for Mr. Demmink to abuse. Additional government and non-government witnesses continue to come forward in Turkey.

If the above information is not an adequate basis for an investigation with formal investigatory powers, then there is little hope for any trafficking victim seeking justice against a government official in The Netherlands. The Government of The Netherlands must not be permitted the same apparent impunity they have shown to Mr. Demmink. I respectfully urge you to hold The Netherlands accountable in the narrative and tier ranking of this year's Trafficking in Persons Report.


Sincerely,



MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D., M.C.
Commissioner



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, M.C.
Co-Chairman




ROGER F. WICKER, U.S.S.
Senate Ranking Commissioner



STEVE COHEN, M.C.
Commissioner



ROBERT A. ADERHOLT, M.C.
Commissioner



JOSEPH R. PITTS, M.C.
Commissioner

Enc: October 2012 Letter from Dutch Minister of Security and Justice