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on their lives. Minister Yeşilgöz-Zegerius (Justice) acknowledges that there are Dutch citizens who have been wrongly identified, but says that the victims themselves should take action to solve this.

Ilah Rubio 01-06-23, 15:29 Last update:  
6/1/23, 4:13 PM



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According to the organization Muslim Rights Watch Netherlands (MRWN), hundreds of Dutch people are wrongly on the international terror list. [Some are no longer allowed to enter certain countries.](#) In addition, most people often do not even know why they are on the list because there are no suspicions or criminal cases against them.

Eighty Dutch Muslims who are in this situation have reported to MRWN. Until now, it was also often denied that they had been spotted. Some of the victims have now filed a case against the Dutch state.

Minister Yeşilgöz-Zegerius (Justice) acknowledges the problem and says he will do everything possible to prevent false alerts and to support affected citizens. But the victims will mainly have to take action themselves, according to answers from the minister to parliamentary questions about this.

## Forget

The police would have 'forgotten' to remove the Dutch citizens from the list. The minister says he is aware of the major impact that an incorrect alert has on people. Government employees would do everything within the framework of their duties and responsibilities to support individuals.



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But, according to her, it is first of all important to find out the origin of the refusal. For example, the person concerned could inquire with foreign authorities why access to a country has been denied. If it appears that the refusal is based on an alert issued by a Dutch authority, the person concerned can turn to that authority. Otherwise, this person can submit a written request for inspection to the police.

If it turns out to be an incorrect alert, the police can proceed to remove the alert and possibly destroy data in its own systems. But that is only possible if it concerns alerts from the police themselves.

### Track down

If a country declares that the refusal is based on an alert in Interpol's systems, the victim must approach Interpol directly with a request to inspect his or her file. But that is also a difficult procedure. Member of Parliament Farid Azarkan, who has asked questions about this to the minister, is therefore not really satisfied with the minister's answers.

He is pleased that it is now being recognized that it cannot be ruled out that people have been wrongly identified. "That is something, but says nothing." The MP believes that citizens should be able to find out more easily what is written about them in the systems, whether alerts have



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been made and whether data has been shared with other countries. "All our stories show that this is not the case. In fact, names appear to have been passed on and citizens appear to have been signaled by, for example, the police, while in the Netherlands they are told that this has not happened," he says.



## In the Netherlands you must be able to get an answer to the question whether the Dutch police have sent a report about you

- Farid Azarkan

"The purport of this letter to Parliament is that citizens themselves must conduct extensive research, including abroad, where the alert or report comes from. If one thing is clear, it is that foreign authorities do not answer and refer to the Netherlands. Usually everything indicates that the report or alert comes from the Netherlands. The beginning of the story must therefore be that a citizen in the Netherlands receives an honest answer when he or she asks about it. And that's not happening."



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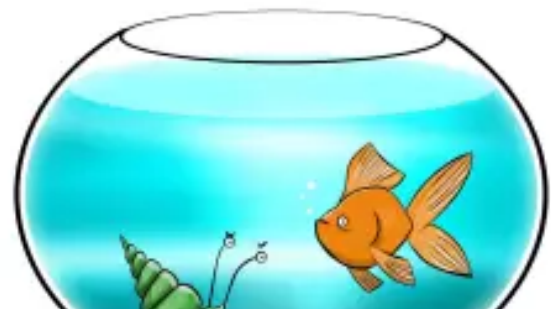


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▲ MP Farid Azarkan (Think). © ANP

He also notices that the minister does not answer questions about the FBI's Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) to which the Dutch police have access and can exchange names. "In short, my questions boiled down to whether the police also pass on names of people who are not suspected of terrorism or have been convicted of it. And if names of non-suspect people are passed on, what are the criteria for doing so and how often this has happened."

He is also surprised about the Interpol reports. According to Azarkan, it is the Dutch police who send and withdraw the names. "As far as I know, Interpol does not do that independently, but the National Central Bureau that is part of the National Unit of the police. The minister advises sending a letter to Interpol itself, but that does not seem to me to be the way to go. You must be able to get an answer in the Netherlands to the question whether the Dutch police have sent a report about you."

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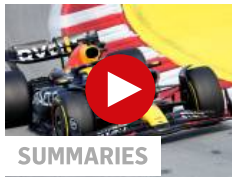


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