



## NEWS REPORT

<b>Follow-up of flash report nr:</b>	<a href="#"><u>1749-NL-88-Wilders leads supporters in anti-Moroccans chant</u></a>
<b>Date:</b>	10 October 2014
<b>Expert:</b>	Holtmaat, Rikki
<b>Title:</b>	Public Prosecution Service considers Geert Wilders to be a suspect and invites him for questioning
<b>Country:</b>	The Netherlands
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	Wilders suspect of insulting a population group and incitement to discrimination and hatred
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	Race / ethnic origin
<b>Source:</b>	Miscellaneous
<b>Field:</b>	Other
<b>Legislative provisions:</b>	Articles 137c and 137d Criminal Code

### Content

The Public Prosecution Service considers Geert Wilders, the leader of right-wing political Party for Freedom ("Partij voor de Vrijheid" - PVV) to be a suspect and has invited him for questioning. Wilders will be examined concerning remarks about Moroccans, about which the police received over 6400 reports. The politician is suspected of having insulted a population group with respect to their race and of incitement to discrimination and hatred (Articles 137c and 137d Criminal Code).

Wilders caused great commotion when leading a gathering of his followers in an anti-Moroccan chant in the aftermath of the local elections, on 19 March 2014. The chant took place during a party meeting in The Hague. Wilders asked his supporters whether they wanted "more or fewer" Moroccans in the Netherlands. The assembled crowd responded: "Fewer! Fewer! Fewer!" before breaking into applause. He replied: "All right, then we'll take care of that."

During recent months, the Prosecution Service analysed the remarks extensively, resulting in the conclusion that Wilders' remarks constitute a suspicion of a criminal offence, which is why it was decided to question Wilders. The Prosecution Service has not yet taken a definitive decision to institute proceedings, but it is generally assumed that criminal prosecution will be the next step taken. If this decision would indeed be taken in the course of the next few months, trial is not expected to start before 2015.

The current situation stands in great contrast to the events leading up to Wilders' trial



in 2010-2011, when the Prosecution Service was reluctant to instigate proceedings. Back then, the Prosecution Service first decided not to prosecute, because it considered the contested remarks to be made “within the context of the public debate”. Wilders was prosecuted only after the Prosecution Service was forced to do so by the Amsterdam Court of Appeal in an appeal against the prosecution’s decision to not pursue the case. Wilders was subsequently acquitted on all charges by the District Court Amsterdam.

**Internet link source:** The Court’s judgment in the first case against Wilders may be found online at: <http://uitspraken.rechtspraak.nl/inziendocument?id=ECLI:NL:RBAMS:2011:BQ9001> (in Dutch, accessed 10 October 2014).

Also see the Public Prosecution Service’s press message: <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/@86738/wilders-suspected/> (in English, accessed 10 October 2014).