

PRESS RELEASE

Widows definitely not present during apologies for summary executions in Jakarta

Amsterdam, 5 September 2013 - The ten widows of the summary executions carried out by Dutch soldiers on South-Sulawesi, in Indonesia, in 1947 will definitely not be present when the apologies are made by the Dutch ambassador in Jakarta on 12 September.

On Monday this week, Liesbeth Zegveld, the lawyer of the widows, had asked Foreign Affairs Minister Timmermans to offer the apologies on South-Sulawesi. Her clients, between 90 to 100 years of age, are too old to travel to Jakarta.

Yesterday, the State Attorney informed Zegveld that the apologies will be made in Jakarta on 12 September 2013. The State is prepared to accommodate the widows by having the ambassador travel to South-Sulawesi at a later date in order to offer the apologies again in person, and to report on the ceremony that will take place on 12 September.

Zegveld and the foundation *Committee for Dutch Debts of Honor* (in Dutch: 'Comité Nederlandse Eerschulden', or 'K.U.K.B.'), an organization that represents the interests of the victims on South-Sulawesi, regret that the widows will not personally experience the extending of the apologies.

Background - Last Friday, the Dutch government decided that it would apologize for the summary executions carried out by Dutch soldiers in the former Dutch East-Indies in the period 1946-1949, and that it would do so in Jakarta on 12 September 2013. These apologies are part of a settlement agreement reached between the Dutch State and the widows of South-Sulawesi.

Contact person: prof. Liesbeth Zegveld, attorney at law – Böhler Advocaten, Keizersgracht 560-562,
1017 EM Amsterdam. Tel.: +31 (0)20-344 62 00, e-mail: LZegveld@bohler.eu