



16 November 2015

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Friday 13th in The Hague

Many of you have called or written enquiring about what has happened to the Staff Representation last Friday, and offering support. We are grateful for this.

What we know from how the events panned out is this:

- Jesus was picked up from his office by President's emissaries. Upon return, he was visibly shaken and appeared to have suffered a nervous breakdown. Medical help was called, and he had to be wheeled out of the office in bad shape. He appears to have been subjected to severe, concerted and wilful pressure, especially intended to harm and destabilise.
- Laurent got or was scheduled to get a similar treatment. Noticeably distressed, he had to rush for medical help externally.
- The other members of the Staff Committee who witnessed the event were also deeply perturbed.

Given the regulations in place, our colleagues are not in a position to inform anyone, so we do not know the Office's reasons or pretexts for targeting them. However the succession of events strongly suggest that it was in relation to their duties.

Staff representatives and union officials should be able to perform their statutory tasks without the danger of reprisal, much less danger to their health. In addition to medical care, steps will be taken to ensure that appropriate legal representatives are informed and instructed to act. Criminal endangerment of the health of staff members is a clear violation of the Office's duty of care and amounts to crossing a line. All those involved in this dereliction of duty will have to assume the responsibility for their choices.

We will inform you asap on any further developments.

Please stay tuned and alerted, and contact us if you have any input.

The SUEPO Committee The Hague