

Citizen Dialogue Group (CDG)
Holland, Kingdom of the Netherland Visit
Amsterdam and The Hague
June 20 - 21, 2006

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

- 1:40 pm:** Arrival at Schiphol Airport from Berlin via the VIP lounge. Briefing en route to hotel by officials from the American Embassy of the Netherland: Karen Enstrom, Integration Issues Section head; Tilly de Groot, Senior Cultural Affairs Specialist; and Mrs. Esma Choho, who will be the moderator at the Citizen Dialogue in the evening.
- 3 pm:** Arrival at the Carlton Ambassador Hotel, Sophialaan2, The Hague.
- 3:15:** Preparation for the Citizen Dialogue event. Room: "Ambassador's Club" at the hotel. Participants: members of the delegation, moderator Mrs. Esma Choho, Karen Enstrom, Tilly de Groot, and Counselor for Public Affairs Gary Keith.
- 5 pm:** Arrival at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Netherland, The Hague. Meeting with:
- A. Ambassador Renee Jones-Bos, Director General of Regional Policy and Consular Affairs.
 - B. Mr. Hans Peter van der Woude, Director of Public Diplomacy.
 - C. Ms. Petra Stienen, Deputy Head, North America Section/Western Hemisphere Department.
- US participants: Members of the delegation, Karen Enstrom, and Gary Keith

Discussion:

- What has been in influence of 9/11 on integration and diversity in the Dutch Society?
 - The Dutch Society is an immigrant country. How do you perceive it to be different from Europe?
 - Representation of Muslims in the political process.
 - Radicalization of certain groups in society.
 - Perspectives on diversity.
 - Dutch government's new "House of Dialogue" initiative (creation of venues for social and cultural programs that foster integration and appreciation of diversity).
- 6-9 pm:** Town meeting and dialogue at the Societeit de Witte, The Hague. Over 200 Muslim participants of different organization and Islamic centers were present. After serving *Heavy hors d'oeuvres* (halal), the meeting started with words of welcome by Ronald E. Arnall, US Ambassador to the Kingdom of

the Netherland. After brief introduction by the delegate, Mrs. Esma Choho, the moderator, started the dialogue with the audience for a period of ninety minutes. The meeting ended with chat over serving coffee and sweets.

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Program of Dr. Imam Talal Y. Eid and Dr. Yahya M. Basha, MD

Accompanied with Amsterdam program control officers of US Embassy: Michele Bond, Gary Keith, and Ellen Dankelman.

8:30 am: Breakfast meeting at Turkish Restaurant Elite (private room to facilitate conversation) in Amsterdam with group of 12 highly educated young citizens of Turkish and Moroccan descent from *Moslimjongeren Amsterdam* (Amsterdam Muslim Youth, MJA), who are working together to help their mosques and those who attend those mosques, to interact more successfully with local government. Some in the group are employed, and some are still studying. Some were also participants at the Dialogue of yesterday evening in The Hague. Mr. Joris Rijbroek, of the City of Amsterdam and officer Ahmed Aboutaleb joined the meeting later.

Participants: *Moslimjongeren Amsterdam (Amsterdam Muslim Youth)*

Olga Plokhooij, supervisor
Abdelilah Boulal, supervisor
Serap Duzgun, student
Anouar El Haji, student
Kayleigh Dijkstra, law graduate
Anass Chrifou, working
Cihan Tekeli, working
Nejma el Maach, working
Jihad Allariachi, student and works with the media
Filiz Alkan, almost finishes her MA in Law

(The Amsterdam Muslim Youth are all in their early twenties.)

10:30 am: Visit the Montessori School in Amsterdam Oost: brief tour, then 45 minutes with a class of 15 students, eight were Muslims, ages 15-16, that has been studying racism and WWII. Dialogue with the students and the two female teachers, one of them was a Muslim,

11:45 am: Lunch meeting at Café de Ysbreker, Amsterdam, with board of the "Polder Mosque," an organization for young Muslims. The following persons are on the board: Khalid Kasem, Annebregt Dijkman, Mohammed Cheppih, and Samira Boubkari.

- 1 pm:** Visit to Moroccan Mosque Al Kabir, Oost Watergraafsmeer in Amsterdam. Mr. Echarrouti of the United Mosques (UMMON) was the host. Tour of the masjid. Dialogue with Imams of different masajids and administrators. Present were: Dr. Oulad Abdullah Marzouk (UMMON), Mr. Osman Pakoz (Milli Gorus Noord Nederland), Imam Tahier Wagid Hoessein (Wim), Mr. R. Abdumahman (Wim), Imam A. Uysal (Stichting Islamitisch Centrum Nederland, SICN), and Mr. Yassin Hartog.
- 4:30 pm:** Press availability in The Hague at the residence of the Deputy Chief of Mission (Sophialaan 12) for visitors. Roundtable discussions followed by one-on-one interviews.

MORE INFO WILL FOLLOW