

PRESS RELEASE

Activists ‘Zwarte Piet is Racisme’ happy with decision by prosecutor not to prosecute

Amsterdam, 20 April 2012 - The artists, Quincy Gario and Kno’Ledge Cesare, who were arrested last year during the arrival of Sinterklaas in Dordrecht—while wearing T-shirts printed with the text ‘Black Pete is racism’—are pleased with the opinion of the office of the public prosecutor that their arrest was unlawful. The detailed substantiation and evaluation as regards to content by the public prosecutor have been welcomed. She concluded that:

By solely wearing a T-shirt with the text “Zwarte Piet is Racisme”, you did not display provocative behavior that could have given rise to disturbances [...] [free translation] (decision not to prosecute of 16 April 2012)

At this time, the complaint that was filed by the attorney of the artists, Ms. Buruma [see www.bohler.eu; the complaint is available in Dutch] is still pending with the police corps Zuid-Holland-Zuid. As the office of the public prosecutor is responsible for police performance within the criminal justice system, Ms. Buruma assumes that the opinion on the lawfulness of the arrest will be adopted. Aside from this, the complaint concerned the use of force and the treatment at the police station; the artists will await the outcome of the complaints procedure before taking a decision on possible further steps.

Contact person: Tamara Buruma, attorney at law – Böhler Advocaten, Keizersgracht 560-562, 1017 EM Amsterdam. Tel.: +31 (0)20-344 62 00, email: TBuruma@bohler.eu