

## Conversation note

Location            CNSI  
Date/Time        8 November 2021, 15:00-15:45  
Present            Johan Stapel (CNSI), Jan Meijer (Concerned Statians Group)

### **Reason**

Letter from Meijer (on behalf of Groep Bezorgde Statianen) dated 6 November 2021 regarding the whereabouts of the excavated human remains by SECAR, to which Stapel responded/invited him to discuss this subject further orally.

### **Conversation**

Stapel explains that CNSI unintentionally "ended up" in the "excavation" file after the group of scientists had been accommodated by CNSI with regard to their accommodation as well as their research work. Stapel emphasizes that CNSI's involvement has been purely facilitative; CNSI has not been involved in any way in the work of the group of scientists, nor in communicating about it with parties such as the local government or SECAR.

Stapel has learned (but has not been able to get hold of any document about this) that around the time of the preparation of the [report of the initial work](#) (reported on by SECAR dated November 30, 2020), some kind of roadmap or communication plan was also prepared that would be quite detailed. It is unclear to Stapel why this communication plan does not appear to have been followed leading up to, during, and following the work. Stapel believes that the local government is taking too much time to provide an honorable and respectful follow-up to the issue. The reason for this is unknown to him. The government would do well to clarify this in the near future and to respond to the wishes of the local population.

Stapel cannot provide any further information about the place where the human remains are currently stored. That responsibility lies with the local authority (in this case the government commissioner). Insofar as he is able to judge and insofar as he has observed the process, Stapel can confirm that the group of scientists acted honourably, respectfully and carefully and that, with due observance of the storage conditions, he helped to think about a temporary storage place for the human remains pending a definitive resting place for the deceased. The silence and, as a result, the understandable dissatisfaction that this has caused among the local population is a thorn in Stapel's side and he

considers it particularly disrespectful towards the deceased and their next of kin. Incidentally, the proposed term for this temporary storage has now been exceeded by a wide margin.

As stated: no further information from Stapel about where the remains are being stored. He does note, however, that *even if CNSI did have a role to play*, he does not think it would be respectful if people whose intentions and involvement could not be immediately clear beforehand were able to walk in 'just like that' for reasons such as paying their last respects. No, instead, a widely supported and broadly based memorial service, followed by the reburial, should take place.

With thanks for the frank conversation and with mutual understanding, Meijer and Stapel took their leave of each other.

### **Summary conclusion**

- Nothing has become clearer with regard to the storage location.
- Careful handling (including storage conditions) seems to have taken place (according to Stapel).
- There seems to be a detailed communication plan regarding the project.
- Reburial has been considered/discussed by SECAR and the local government.
- The word is out to the government commissioner for further disclosure on this.