

Experiences with preventing (police)violence within and against

DEMONSTRATIONS IN AMSTERDAM



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PROGRAM



- The Netherlands & Police
- Law and Regulations
- Principles of policing
- Dealing with demonstrations
- Peace-Unit
- Principles
- Discussion

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Commissioner **JAN SWAAN** M.Sc.



- Police Academy 1981
- Neighbourhood teams
- Crime Squad
- Projects
(Community Policing, Service and ILP)
- Chief of Operations
- Chief of Peace-unit

- Bachelor Police Academy
- Master in Urban Sociology
- Master in Executive Police Management

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THE NETHERLANDS



- Capital : Amsterdam
- Government: Den Haag
- Inhabitants: 16.800.000
- Size: 2/3 Latvia
- Windmills: 1048
- King: 1



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POLICE IN THE NETHERLANDS



- National Police
 - 10 Regional Units
 - 1 Nationwide Unit
 - 1 Support Unit
- 63.000 Police Officers
- Amsterdam 6000 Officers
- Mayor is Head of Police concerning Public Order

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THE POLICE



- Keep the peace in society
- Protect life, freedom & property
- Contributes to improving public safety in - and for the benefit of - society at large
- Are the authority in public domain
- Actively account for their actions to the appropriate authorities and to the (local) community

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THE MINDSET

Facilitate



or

Prohibit



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LAWS AS FUNDAMENT FOR DEMONSTRATIONS



- Ensure Fundamental Rights
- Facilitate legitimate goals
- Restrict only in reasons mentioned in laws (art 10 ECHR)
 - national security
 - territorial integrity or public safety
 - prevention of disorder or crime
 - protection of health or morals
 - protection of the reputation or the rights of others

It's all about PEACEFUL Demonstrations

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EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS



Council of Europe member states

- Article 10:
 - Freedom of Expression
- Article 11:
 - Freedom of Assembly and Association

DUTCH CONSTITUTION



- Article 7:
 - Freedom of Expression
(no prior approval required)
- Article 9:
 - Freedom of Assembly and Demonstration
- Public Manifestation Law
(Municipal Implementation Act)

PRINCIPLES IN DEALING WITH DEMONSTRATIONS



- Maintaining Right of Freedom of Speech & Demonstration
- Contact & Dialogue
- Connection
- Reliable Government & Police
- Professionalism
- Continuity
- Prevention of Violence, Injuries & Damage

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THE PEACE-UNIT

A WAY OF WORKING WITH DEMONSTRATIONS



- Timely and continuous communication and dialogue is essential
- Dedicated and trained staff
- Contact is always possible, even with 'difficult' groups
- Prevention of violence and disorder

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PEACE-UNIT



- Risk Demonstrations
 - Political Tension
 - Violence
 - Counter Demonstrations
 - Specific goals and themes
- Specialisation
- Prevention of the use of Riot Squads & other Police
- Connection, short & long-term
- De-Anonymise

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PEACE-UNIT



- Ensure Fundamental Rights
- Organisation is responsible
- Stewards
- Dialogue & info-exchange
- Police is connected with society, recognisable and reliable
- Police is neutral on the demonstration topic

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PEACE-UNIT DURING DEMONSTRATION



- Relaxed appearance
- Walking
- Approachable
- Addressing People
- Eye & Ear
- Contact with other police-units

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COUNTER DEMONSTRATIONS



- Keep connected with all groups
- Know their aims
- Communicate
- Take them serious
- Facilitate their rights too

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PEACE-UNIT RESULTS



- Prevented
 - Violence
 - Damage
 - Polarisation
- Reduced
 - Costs
 - Police Capacity
- Built
 - Contacts
 - Trust

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STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES



- Knowledge of the group
- Facilitate legal aims
- Differentiate by behaviour;
not by the group one belongs to
- Communicate mutually
- Listen and watch:
behaviour has meaning

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OVER ALL ADVISES FOR POLICE



- Selecting & training staff critically is essential
- Diversity in police-force is necessary for acceptance in society
- Independent assessment is indispensable and essential
- Recruit Chiefs with (Sociological) Vision

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POLITIE
Amsterdam

STILL A LONG WAY TO GO



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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