

To the Lieutenant Governor of the Island Territory of Bonaire, Mr. G. Thode,
Plaza Wilhelmina
Kralendijk, Bonaire

Date: December 16, 2010

Re: referendum December 17, 2010 and new state structure Bonaire as of October 10, 2010

Dear Sir,

You hereby receive attached my letter dated October 7, 2010 in which I clearly express my opinion on the political developments regarding the current situation. So far I have not received any official response from your cabinet about my position.

Tomorrow December 17, 2010 a referendum will take place in which the people of Bonaire can vote on the current state structure, Bonaire integrated into the Netherlands as a public body. The question that can be voted on is whether Bonaire agrees (Yes) or disagrees (No) with the current status. In itself the referendum is well-intentioned and the only way in which such a drastic change in state structure can be submitted to the people for consultation. But as we all know, the core problem we all find ourselves in now is that the structure of the state has been handled by the politicians without the people. I will not go into this further. In my sober opinion, this did not go well and it is clear that we now have this problem and that a referendum will take place after a few attempts.

However, my main concerns and position regarding this referendum is the following:

That we the Bonerians with real logical and historical ties with the island (let alone the fact that there are now also people entitled to vote who have no real ties, so they are only on Bonaire and can decide our fate), lack a clear and fair preparation phase, which we did not receive for the takeover by the Netherlands on 10-10-10 and 2 months later, so now December 17th exposes the simple people to an unimaginably difficult situation again.

It's simple to say that if we disagree we should disapprove and we'll see. But it has never been that simple in practice as we are a people in early, young stages of self-emancipation. So far in my opinion and facts our people have not yet been able to express their personal opinions on such matters publicly, without looking back and without the support of organized groups (may be political party, association etc). So this question that will determine the fate of themselves and future generations unfairly and prematurely. But then the logical answer to this will be to maintain the current situation until they are so developed and can freely express and decide their opinions on such matters. However, this is the biggest problem that we have been pushed in this situation with their backs to the wall and the majority of the population until today do not know what will really happen if they disagree and this brings the uncertainty that heavily influences their right of free expression and this will not become a fair question and choice.

In addition, there is currently a fierce information and propaganda campaign of the RCN that shows the people all the news and beauty of this forced status on us, so all the improvements and advancements in various areas; tax, care, education, etc. My opinion about this is that these improvements are our rights that were taken away from us and they are in the process of catching up and are not motives to hand over our island to the Netherlands. This also creates a lot of confusion and on top of that the referendum just before the holiest time or the most cultural and sensitive and emotional period of the

year (before Christmas and New Year) is too much for the average Bonerian and can hardly handle all this.

In addition, the people who have been and still are highly dependent on politics, and have not yet had the opportunity and strength and freedom, thus have the stage of development to be able to express their opinion impersonally and to stand above politics, yet it must continue to hear from their people's leaders who have shown and continue to show vagueness and not clarity during these difficult times. I will not blame the politicians for this, but it is unacceptable that we let our historically acquired rights and Bonaire be taken away just like that and let our natural self-emancipation process be reversed and stopped and hand over our identity and island of Bonaire to others. We have the right to walk this difficult self-emancipation path and process in our own rhythm as an ex-colony and the Netherlands and the rest of the 1st world has the duty to support us in this.

Finally, I think that all involved, me, my children and the rest of the population have been driven into an unfair situation and that something must be chosen that should not have taken place in the first place, so it is and will remain unlawful, and that the result of this can be binding if it becomes Yes. This is ironic and directly against all logical principles and pillars of modern law, so not as before the law of the fittest with violence, but with dialogue and concessions as it should be after World War II and supported by the United Nations. We cannot commit murder and then justify or vote it right.

Based on the above and my earlier letter of October 7, 2001. the current status is in my opinion illegal and can never be ratified by a referendum with an unfair preparation period of the population. I never think it makes sense to ask my 10-year-old son who wants to become a pilot whether or not she wants to own and fly the beautiful Boeing 747 and then blame him for choosing himself after the expected tragedy. That is his dream and right in this modern free world to become what he wants, but it requires a process that requires a lot of time and effort. This also applies to us, Bonaire as an ex-colony of the Netherlands, in order to work with those involved in the self-emancipation and awareness process and the path must be followed to the rhythm of the people and cannot be forced until the time is right.

Any outcome of this referendum that is not in favor of our natural self-emancipation right that is the pursuit and drive of every individual in this world for self-emancipation is because the moment is not undesirable and the outcome is not acceptable until the moment that the people have been able to enjoy a solid development to which they have a right.

With kind regards,

James Finies

Kaya Mamore 3

Bonaire

Cc: Cabinet of the Queen of the Dutch State

International Court of Justice

Island Council of the island territory of Bonaire