

# Foreign prisoners in the Netherlands

## 'National policy into local practise'



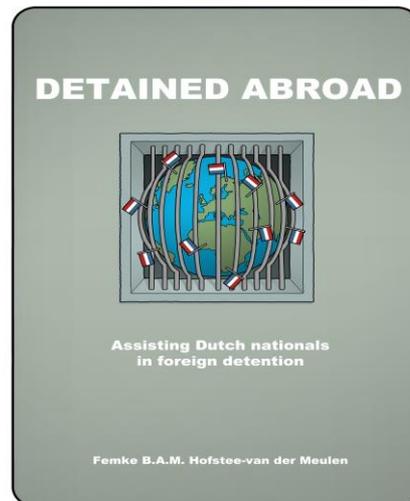
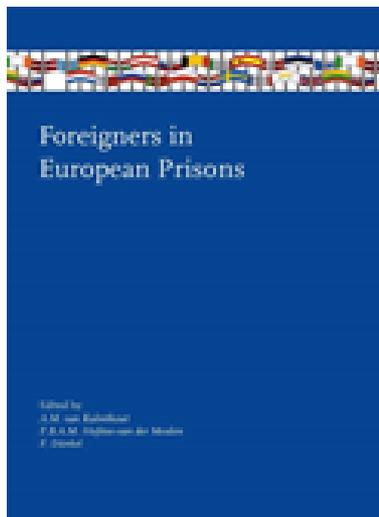
Dr. Femke Hofstee-van der Meulen  
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# Content presentation

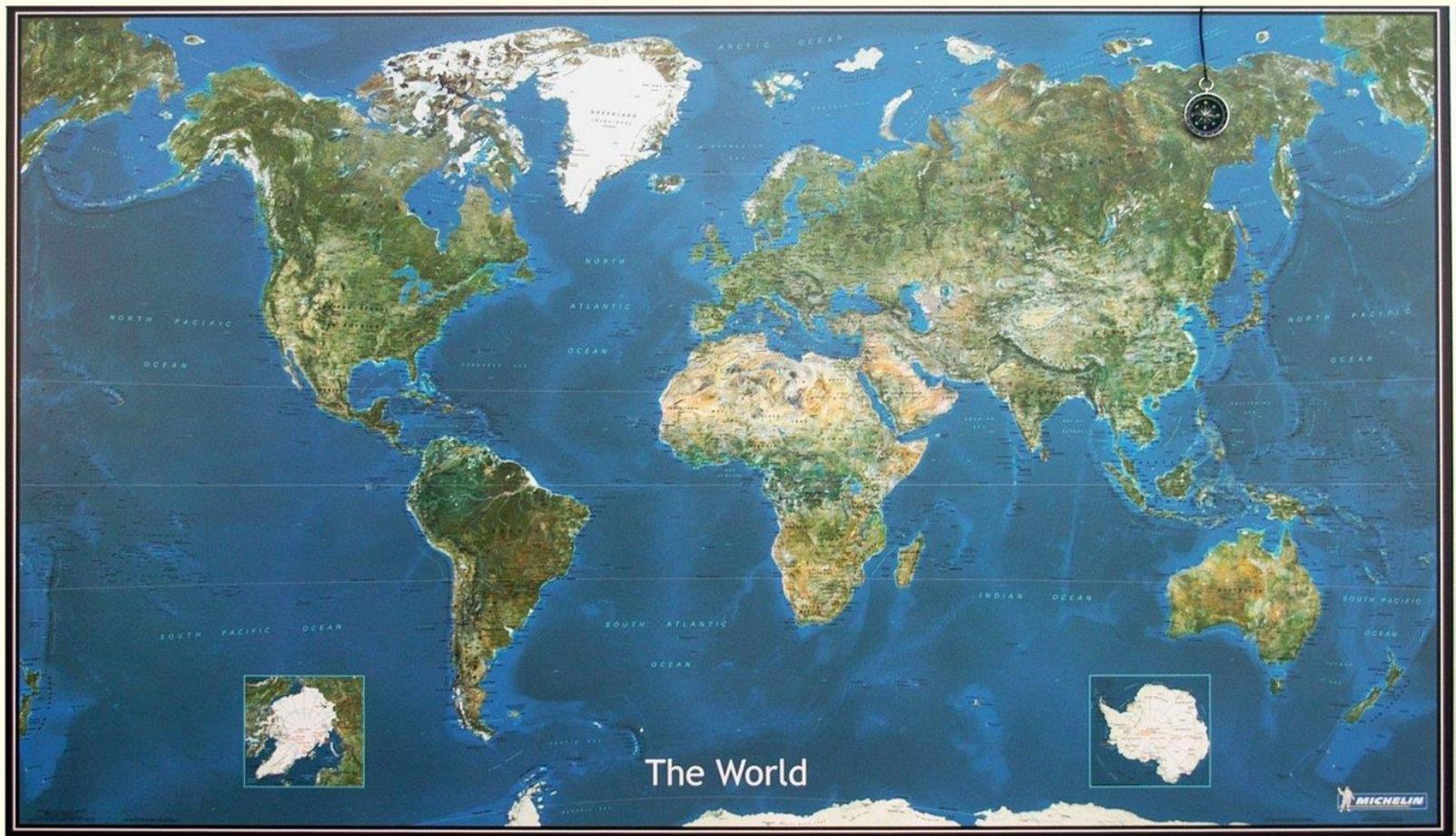
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## 1. Introduction

- History at Leiden University
- Member monitoring board Wormwood Scrubs in Londen
- 2003 start Prisonwatch
- EU research Foreigners in European prisons
- Inspector of prisons
- PhD – Detained abroad – Dutch nationals detained abroad
- Deputy prison governor in Alphen aan den Rijn



## How many foreign nationals in Dutch prisons?

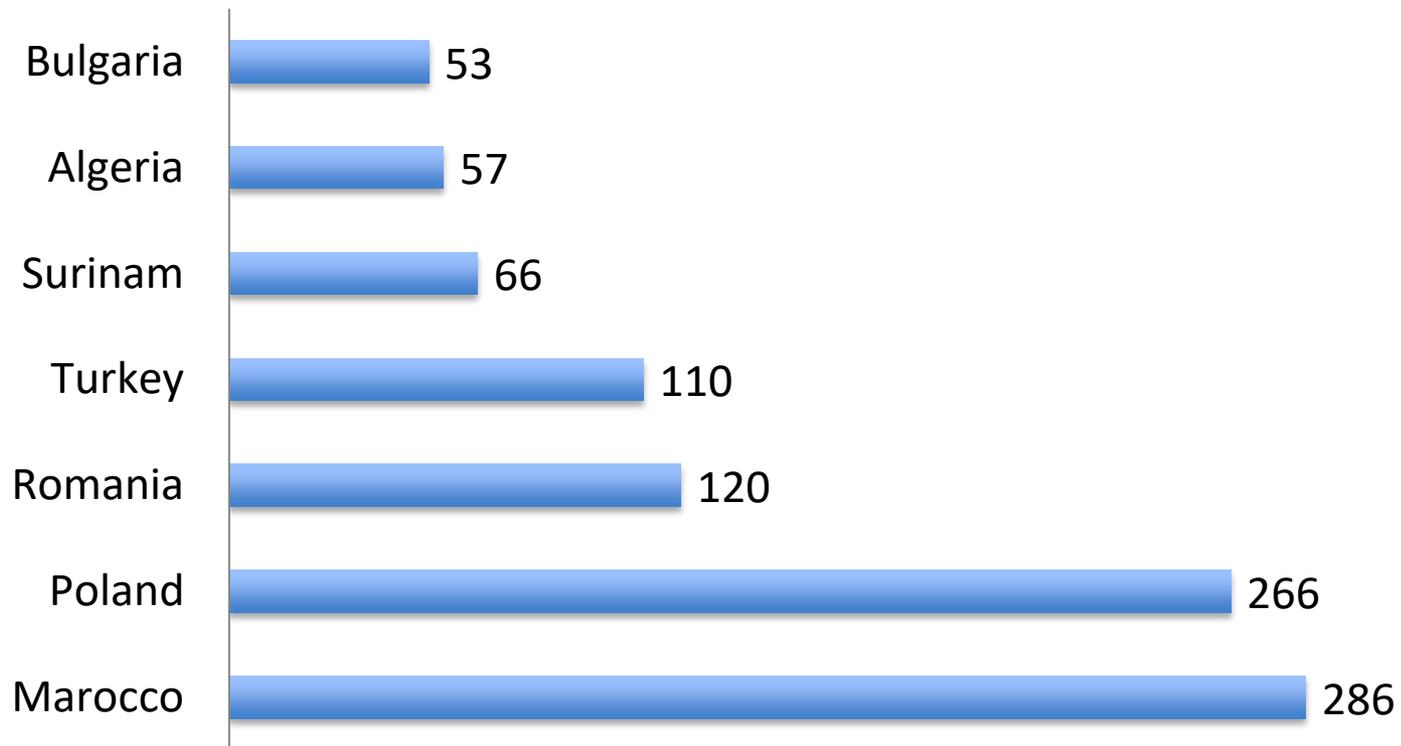


## 2. Key facts about foreign nationals in Dutch prisons

- Total prison population in 2018: **9.384**
- **22%** has a foreign nationality
- In total **2.052** prisoners in around 30 prisons
- **107** different nationalities
- **3** Detention centres for irregular migrants



## Top 7 nationalities in Dutch prisons in 2018



### 3. National policy in Dutch prisons and detention centres

- No differentiation in Penal Code between Dutch and foreign offenders.
- No segregation: FNP's in all prisons

#### Prison Rules

- Right to make a telephone call
  - Upon arrival
- Right to contact embassy
  - Visits by consular staff are facilitated
- Right to be informed
  - Foreign television channels
  - staff speaks different foreign languages / mentor

- Right to worship
  - Imam, Priest, Boeddhist, Humanist, Rabbi, Pandit
  - Requirement to inform FNPs about their rights / house rules
    - translation of extract house rules in a few languages
- Right to be informed about decisions
  - availability of an interpreters service
- Obligation to inform prisoner about decision of the director in a language the prisoner can understand
  - sometimes text in English
- Right to maintain contact with the outside world
  - Visit and possibility to use Skype

## 4. PI Ter Apel, PI Tilburg, PI Norgervhaven



## 5. Detention experience of FNPs in the Netherlands

- Many hours in cell (often single cell usage)
- Contact with staff is rather positive
- Prisoners feel in general safe
- Language obstacle
- Participation in work / sports / library (foreign books)
- Different diets (halal, kosjer)
- Restricted participation in education and training
- Feelings of social exclusion

## 6. Detention experience of Dutch nationals detained abroad

### Neutral

- Hygiene (less > EU)
- Contact (87% contact family, < 1 in 3 visited)

### Negative

- Safety (40% onsafe, significant > EU)
- Discrimination (1 in 2, 66% foreign nationality)
- Rules (unknown)

### Very negative

- Medical (decline of situation, especially > EU)
- Activities (lack of activities)
- Contact staff
- Preparations for return to society

## 7. Impact of support from the Netherlands



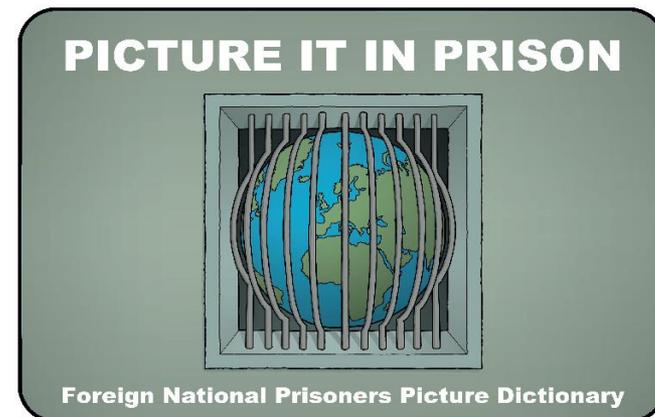
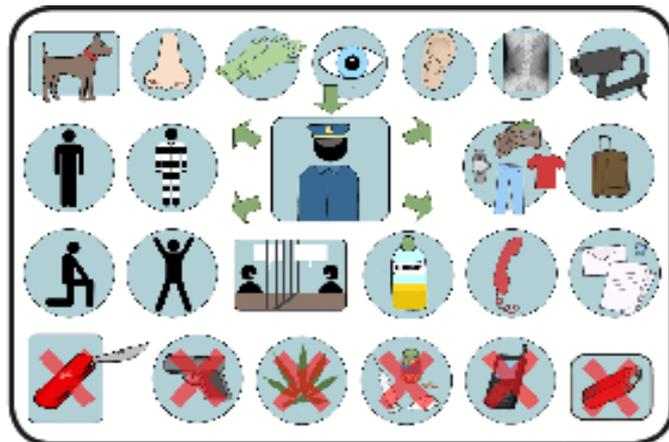
- Detention experience
- Special needs (info, contact outside world, safety, medical)
- ! Positive influence of volunteer



- Authorities are not called upon to difficult situation FNPs and lack of fair trial
- Not sufficient attention for resettlement to country of origin
- No aftercare upon return to the Netherlands (except EU Transfers)

## 8. *Picture it in Prison*

- Language obstacle is one of the main reasons why FNPs experience difficulties, feel socially excluded and are unable to be interdependent
- Aim is to stimulate communication, to learn a foreign language, understand the rules and become interdependent.
- Pocket-size for prisoners and A4-size for prison staff





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