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Rijssen, 25 juli 2011

Your Highness, Queen Beatrix,

Last May 8th I wrote to you for the first time. At the time I didn't know exactly what I could expect from a letter to the queen and thus I was happily surprised when I received word that my letter was treated as a request and forwarded to the Minister of Health, Ms Edit Schippers. From her I received a reply on July 14th.

I have read the letter from the minister with increasing dissatisfaction. The first part consisted solely out of repeating what I had written in my letter and the second part concerned claims of sympathy which in my eyes appeared very much fabricated, as well as some sentences regarding the official status of intersexuals, specifically the ability to change one's official gender, that a law already exists regarding it (1:24) and that with this everything has been taken care of. The included House questions reinforced this.

Further the minister claimed that the agreement from 2006 between physicians regarding the prevention of careless and unnecessary surgeries has led to the uncooperative attitude of the hospitals in the Netherlands which I have frequented.

Concerning this existing law I don't have to say much. It does indeed exist, as the lawyer who helped me last year with my first name change also addressed. Problem with it is that the person in question has to be designed as being intersexual by a hereto approved doctor. Considering that there are no medical protocols for intersexuals (confirmed by the gender team of the UMCG) and thus nobody can be marked as being intersexual, this law is useless and dead.

The Yogyakarta agreement should have changed this, but despite statements by then ministers in 2006 and 2008 has this agreement still not been introduced and will probably not be introduced within any reasonable time period. The only way for intersexuals to change their official gender is to pretend to be transsexuals and undergo surgery. This is an ironic twist with regard to the prevention of unnecessary surgeries with intersexuals.

Anyway, the behaviour of hospitals and specialists towards me can not be explained using this agreement, since it doesn't concern surgeries, but purely diagnostics. Two German clinics have independently concluded that it concerns hermaphroditism. The Dutch hospitals have refused to diagnose and where they did do this have they been shot down by other Dutch hospitals.

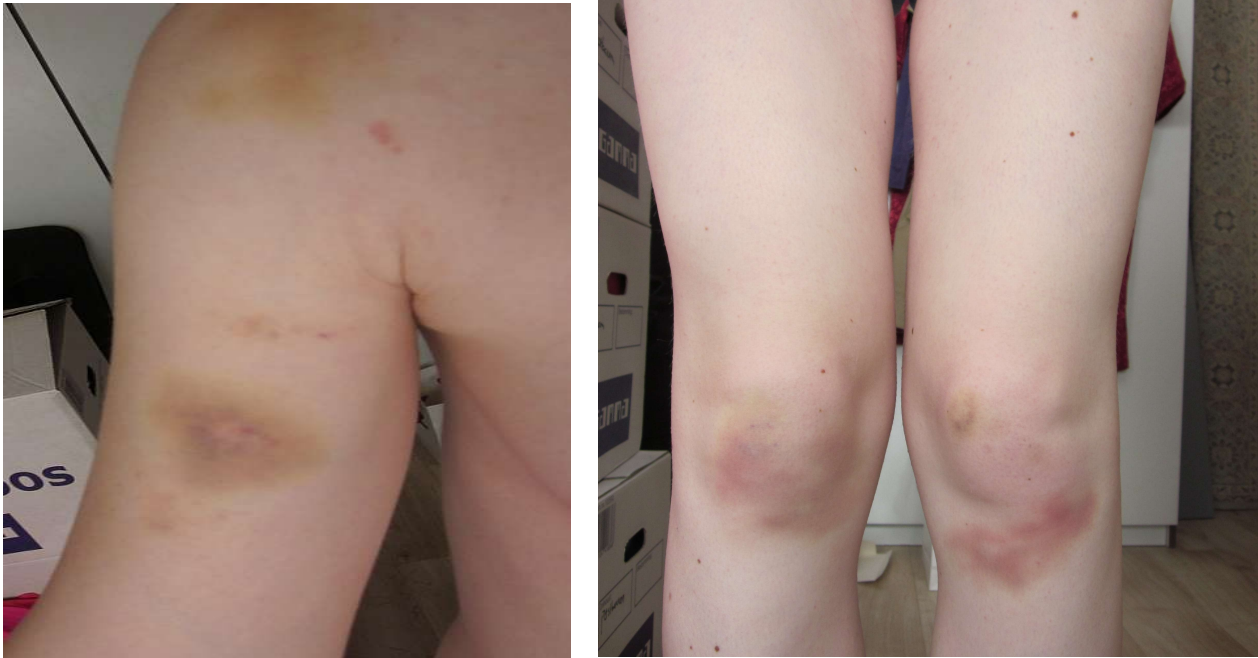
For example the diagnosis transsexuality by the VUMC was shot down by the AMC, which itself created the diagnosis autoparagynaecophilia, which is a diagnosis by a single psychologist who has been discarded by his colleagues and transsexuals. Further every Dutch hospital has drawn different conclusions from the MRI scans. Finally the UMCG has pretended to perform a mosaic test due to the suspicion that I have both XX and XY cells, but they claimed that 1 tissue was sufficient for this. A quick look at medical literature teaches us that for this 20 to 30 tissues are required to exclude the possibility of mosaicism. Considering that with mosaicism a single cell type almost always contains the cells of a single cell line, the UMCG has really messed this one up.

A question which can also be asked is whether or not willingly insurance fraud has been committed, by scheduling endless appointments with psychologists and doctors, as well as carry out useless

examinations. If proper diagnostics were carried out everything could have been resolved back in 2005 already. Instead I have been kept waiting for six and a half years and have there been convoluted and useless examinations and so many discussions and has my insurance company covered tens of thousands of Euros for what is basically a waste of time and my life.

The central question hereby is therefore simply 'Why?'

At any rate this is what my reality looks like (see my website for more details):



Some weeks after I sent my letter to you have I been arrested in a forceful fashion by the police because my then family doctor was unable to handle my case. I have spent a night in the cell which has caused considerable mental damage and I have been physically abused. I have possibly permanent nerve damage in my wrists due to too tight handcuffs as well as (permanent) damage to my right knee. Agents have bashed my head against car doors and cell walls. My mother wasn't allowed to see me after I was arrested.

This all together is pure discrimination and persecution and I can not understand why this country and its government has thus abandoned me. What did we intersexual people do wrong that we get treated like criminals? Why have our human rights been taken from us? In our eyes there's no justification for what has happened.

Maya Posch

P.S.: Today, July 25th, I got into contact with Sophie in 't Veld (EP, D66) who will use my case at the Intergroup LGBT rights and the European Commission.