



Joëlla van Donkersgoed <jvd38@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>  
To: mfarid01@yahoo.com

Tue, Jan 5 at 11:07 PM ★

Dear Pak Muhammad Farid,

Pertama, selamat tahun baru. Semoga kesehatan, berkah dan kedamaian selalu menyertai.

The reason why I approach you is that the year 2021 marks the fourth centenary of the massacre on the Banda Islands. To commemorate these events and advance scholarly and societal conversations on this topic across national borders, we (Pepijn Brandon, Joëlla van Donkersgoed, Beatrice Glow, Nancy Jouwe, Wim Manuhutu, Matthias van Rossum and Merve Tosun) have formed a working group that intends to organize a series of online, publicly accessible interdisciplinary conversations, involving historians, archeologists, heritage specialists and artists, to deepen our understanding of the events, their legacies and afterlives. More background information on this seminar series can be found below.

Given your great expertise and continued engagement with this topic, we would like to invite you to take part in the Zoom-round table that will take place on March 10, 2021. The theme of this session will be "Genocide: Fact or Claim". You would not be expected to present a formal paper, just a brief summary of your research / engagement with the history of the Banda Islands, like your recently published book Tanah Banda. These introductions will lead up to a conversation with the other speakers and audience, guided by Matthias van Rossum, who is part of the working group and has done substantial research on the theme of the session.

Meeting times have been chosen in such a way that they allow for participation across time-zones, including participation from the US East Coast and Indonesia / the Banda Islands. This means we will start at 8:00 New York / 14:00 Amsterdam / 20:00 Jakarta. The sessions will last approximately one and a half hours. For speakers who are not employed by a Dutch academic institution, we can offer a modest speaker fee of €250.

We sincerely hope that you are willing to join us for this event.

Best wishes,

Joëlla van Donkersgoed (member organizing committee)

#### Background information

The year 1621 marks a turning point in the colonial conquest of the Banda Islands in Indonesia, which accomplished a principal aim of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) to establish a monopoly on the valuable spice trade in nutmeg and mace. On May 8th, it will be exactly 400 years ago that Jan Pieterszoon Coen ordered the execution of prominent Bandanese and subsequent raids which led to the depopulation of the archipelago. Subsequently, the VOC brought in enslaved people from various parts of Asia and East-Africa, including a small part of the previously expelled Bandanese. The Banda Islands served as a precedent for later Atlantic conquests of the Dutch West India Company (WIC), founded in the same year.

#### Aims

- To approach the historical events on the Banda Islands from various interdisciplinary academic, artistic, and international angles.
- To make connections across national borders and disciplinary fields.
- To address the violent actions in 1621 and assess the designation genocide
- To foster scholarly and artistic conversations in dialogue with the general public

#### Format

Round table with three speakers who will introduce their view on the topic in 15 minutes, after which the host will lead a discussion amongst the panelists for 20 minutes before the floor is opened for Q&A with the public.

#### Hosts

- International Institute for Social History (IISG)
- Research Institute for Culture, Cognition, History and Heritage of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU CLUE+)

#### Equity

The series will be open to the public who must register beforehand. Furthermore, the sessions will be recorded and made publicly available on the workgroup's website. Automatic captioning of English will be generated for these recordings, and we will look into the possibility to translate the captions in Bahasa Indonesia.

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