

Dit document bevat eerst een kort verslag in het Engels met foto's van een groepsbijeenkomst in het dorp Pasiwari, naast Rawagede, waar een aantal ouderen is bevroegd over hun herinneringen aan de periode van de onafhankelijkheid en de aanval op Rawagede.

Van deze gesprekken is ook een audio-opname. Van de individuele vervolgesprekken met de drie mannen Odih, Warta en Diwar de dag erna, is geen audio beschikbaar, alleen de transcripten die in het Engels zijn vertaald. De passages die in het artikel zijn geciteerd zijn in het geel aangegeven.

NOTES INTRODUCTORY GROUP MEETING

A group meeting was organised by Tati Krisnawaty and Paul ter Weel in *Kaliaget* an organic farm and school in Pasirawi (Krawang) on 20 Juli 2015 with the intention of probing the memory of a number of elderly people from the village of Pasirawi (neighbouring Rawagede) on the period of the independence war and the attack on Rawagede in December 1947.

Present were: Stef Scagliola, Tati Krisnawaty, a young apprentice Shadiq and 5 elderly inhabitants. of Pasirawi. Below is a photo of the setting.



Resource Persons

1. Diwar (male; about 90 years old
2. Warta (male; about 100
3. Odih (male; about 74
4. Centing (female; about 90

5. Roemsiah (female; about 73)

6.

The male narrators provided most of the information



Diwar



Odih



Warta

1. Stef : thanking and introducing her background and the purpose of the meeting
2. Diwar shares his experience on the Japanese occupation era:
 - he was about 14-16 years old, as shepherd of 9 buffalos (of his own family)
 - life was so hard, full of misery, no cloths, no food; the Japanese army always come to take by force and violence almost all the padi/rice from the barns of his family and neighbours in Pasirawi up to Karees
3. Warta shares his memory on the Dutch occupation era
 - at the second occupation, in the villages (including Pasirawi, Rawagede, Cebong, Cilele) there were a lots of ID (spy). One of them is very famous, his name is Surnih from Cebong
 - Warta worked as PGD (Pager Desa); a civil security forces at the village level. Since 70-ies, PGD is known as Hansip (pertahanan Sipil / Civil defence)
 - During the second occupation, after the tragedy in Rawagede, Warta knows many people in the village became members of Lasykar, among others are: Khilap, Balok, Cucur, Surat, Jono, and Compreng. Khilap was the leader of Lasykar, living in Lamarin (just north of east Karawang). Lasykar making lots of riots. Jono was killed.
4. Odih shares about Rawagede incident
 - he is in the second grade of elementary school.
 - at the day of Rawagede incident, the mother did not let him go school. About 4 days he did not go to school.

- The incident happened in the very early morning at about 5 o'clock (subuh) of 9 December 1947.
 - Odih knows from the adult people around that a day before that incident, the people already saw Dutch army going around. They came to the village through Tunggak Jati or Rengas Dengklok; and at the day (about 12 o'clock) of 18 December 1947 the noise of the shooting have been heard.
5. Centing shares about Rawagede incident
- A day before Rawagede incident; (18 Dec 1947), while she was pregnant (6 months) and worked in her paddy field at desa Pasirawi. At about 12 (lohor), she heard the shooting but didn't know what's going on. All the peasant in the paddy field ran away to save their lives. Since Centing was pregnant she could not run fast, then one bullet attacked her leg.. she fell, unconscious.
6. Warta tells another story
after the Rawagede incident, in the villages there were:
- BR
 - Gerombolan,
 - Lasykar , lead by Hilap
- Lasykar and Gerombolan were always fighting. They kill many people.
7. Rumsiah, asked the story about the death of Satria and the burning of his house.
Warta answered:
- Satria was suspected (by Laskar etc.) as an informer/spy for the ID
 - but Satria was being killed by a family member (family affair)
 - the house of Satria and his sisters in law was burned down by BR

Short report (by Tati Krisnawaty)
Interview Diwar (Age: 90 years)
21 July 2015, afternoon / 22 July midday

DIWAR (male; about 90 years old)

1. Name: Diwar
2. Age: 90
3. Where did you live at the time of the revolution?
 - Karawang, Pasirawi
4. Where were you born?
5. Karawang, Pasirawi
6. What was the profession of your father and mother?
 - farmers.
7. **Japanese period:** - tell me about how life was
8. Did life change in the desa (village)?
 - I don't know. I was about 14 years old in 1942. I had no attention
9. At school?
 - never been to school,
 - worked as a buffalo shepherd on the family farm
10. Weren't you surprised that all the Dutch had disappeared?
 - Not really... don't remember
11. **Revolutionary period:**
12. Did you have sympathy for the revolution right at the start?
 - I did not understand, I had no sympathy
 - What I most remember was the action of the gangs/preman/gerombolan of pushy people to provide rice for them or to hand over woman
 - I remember Warshad; he was a person who acts on behalf of the gang; the leader of the gang. If there was a pretty girl and if he wants something, he will do anything, including killing
 - I remember Saniyem's case. She was the wife of Timan, she was a beautiful Tanji music singer; Warsyad wanted her; and for that Timan being arrested and trampled in the mud fields until limp. When Timan rise again, he was stabbed to death by the men of Warsyad
13. Did you have hopes that life would change?
 - I was too young to think about that at that time
 - I think yes, I hope no gerombolan, no people like Warsyad. No sweet girl left in the village ... all were taken by Warsyad

14. Do you remember when you heard about merdeka?

- I forget

15. What is your memory of the Dutch?

- I remember when I aged 14 years , I was looking for fish in the brook, near the paddy fields , I got lots of fish, when I went home , on the road , I meet the Dutch troops about 5 people ... they do not pay attention to me , maybe due to the fact that I was just a small boy. They let me go just like that. No disturb, no asking about my fish, I felt calm.

16. Do you have memory of Dutch violence against Indonesians?

- No

17. Do you know why people from your side wanted to work for the Dutch?

No,

18. Do you remember how the Laskars operated here and which Laskars?

- Laskar Rakyat tantamount to the gang, show the power, intimidating, rob

19. Did you join a Laskar? What was the reason to join a Laskar?

- No
- But I remember I was invited by Atot to join in his gang. Atot's father is an Indonesian army-man. The gang led by Atot is famous as 'latecomer'-gang (GEROMBOLAN KABERANGAN); we were asking the rich people for money, or the people have a party in Ciwelut . I was briefly with this gang.

20. How was the relation to the villagers?

- Bad

21. Who was in charge of order – theft, violence, cheating – during the revolution in your kampong?

- kepala desa (head of the village)
- the gangs (gerombolan, BR, Lasykar)

22. The case of RawaGedeh

23. What do you remember about the Rawa Gedeh case? When was the first time you heard about it? - - -

24. Was there another period in which this region was attacked by the Dutch troops?

- I don't know

25. Did you ever have a talk with a Dutch soldier? What did you think of them?

- Never. They saw me as a small boy, but did not pay attention to me.

Tati Krisnawaty, 22 July 2015

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Short report (by Tati Krisnawaty)

Interview Odih (74 old, but changed to be 78 old)

21 July 2015, afternoon

1. Name: Odih
2. Age: 78 (born in 1937)
3. Where did you live at the time of the revolution?
 - Sumurbandung, Pasir Awi (*Karawang*) 3-4 km east of Rawagede
4. Where were you born?
5. Sumurbandung, Pasir Awi (*Karawang*)
6. What was the profession of your father and mother?
 - My parents were farmers, small scale peasant, having about one ha land (paddy field)
7. **Japanese period:**
 - What kind of stories were told to you about life during the Japanese period?
 - people were powerless ; Japan took some amount of the harvest from the barn , Japan never asked permission to the owner, but had permission from the head of the village
8. **Revolutionary period:**
 - the revolutionary period is more severe ; starving everywhere ; limited food , eat gadung, banana, and papaya trunk
 - many people die of starving
9. You were a small child during this period, but do you have memories of this period?
 - I remember I participated in having mutual corpse died of starvation .
 - I also remember about the existence of gangs (gerombolan and BR)
 - very difficult period
10. Was your family safe, or did they have to move?
 - We were safe, we lived in the village, we never moved from this village
11. Have you ever heard about Laskars?
 - Yes I had heard about Laskar; but I could not distinguish between the Lasykar and the gangs/gerombolan or BR . Same thing , same as disruptive
 - Lasykar (as well gangs) was like a plunderer ; taking people's money and shoot the people who against them
12. Were there stories about them going around?
 - Yes; parents told to their children. My parents told me.
 - we were told that the name of the leader of BR is Warshad , his wife name is Iyoh , and one of his men's name is Sarim.
 - Warshad and Salim done a lot of killings

- They continue doing harm (violence, plunder) after our independence day. Power game. Showing to the people who has power. Killing people to show that the power and the rule of game is in their hands.
- In fact either BR, Ganks/Gerombolan, or Lasykar, all subject to and fear of the (official) Indonesian army . But the Indonesian troops are few in number and seldom in the village

13. The case of RawaGedeh

14. What do you remember about the Rawa GEdeh case? When was the first time you heard about it?

- What I remember about Rawagede are:
 - the black people , KNIL and ID , going around, people said they came from Bekasi ,
 - the sound of *dededede.... (the sound of many shots)*

15. Was there another period in which this region was attacked by the Dutch troops?

- I don't know

16. Did you ever have a talk with a Dutch soldier? What did you think of them?

- Never.

Tati Krisnawaty
Karawang, Pasirawi, 21 July 2015

Interview

Short report (by Tati Krisnawaty)

Interview with pak Warta (Age: about 100 years)

21 July 2015, morning

Basic context

1.. Where did you live at the time of the revolution?

> I lived in Gacer, Pasir Awi (*Karawang*), 3 km east of Rawagede

2. Where were your born?

> I was born in Sumur Bandung, Pasir Awi (*Karawang, same village, just different neighbourhood*)

3. What was the profession of your father and mother?

> cottar (*agriculture labour, independent, have no land*)

> *first my parents lived in Karawang, but since four children of my parents born all died, eventually they moved to Palawad, Subang (different counties)*

4. What was your profession during your life?

> during the Japanese occupation I worked as PGD (official civil security forces, village level), for about two years

> after Independence, before the Rawagede incident i worked as “**upas**”, *a staf of village government, direct under the village head / lurah* He worked in the forest near Sangga Buana Mountain (South of Karawang), to defend/protect the village people from D.I (Darul Islam). D.I disrupted the community by force asking for money or take the women they wanted.

5. Did you go to school and what kind of school was it?

> yes, I went to school up to third grade of elementary school, I have school certificate

6. Do you remember having had contact with the Dutch before the war?

> No

Japanese period: - tell me about how life was

1. Did life change in the desa?

> yes. terrible. Many things were destroyed by Japan, people's rice storages are controlled, counted, and the rice of the people in the storages being taken by Japanese

2. Did you often have contact with Japanese?

Yes, I did security work. When the Japanese taking the rice from the people storages, I companied them, to make sure that they not take all, that there is a part for the owner, and there is no violence

3. Were Japanese hard on all farmers, or for particular? Was there a way to be protected?

compared to BR and gerombolan , Japanese was not too hard on farmers. they take limited amount of people rice. BR and gerombolan never asked permission. Taking all what they want.

There was no way to be protected. People were just powerless, just keep the hope that the Japanese not taking all the wealth

4. Did the Japanese get support from local bosses?

NO

5. Do you remember what happened to the Dutch at this time?

No

Revolutionary period:

1. Where there any cases of revenge after the Japanese lost their power?

>No

2. How did you hear about the revolution?

Nothing

3. Did you have hopes that life would change?

Not too much

4. Do you remember when you heard about 'Merdeka'?

Not really. Nothing special, Live goes on as before, many misery, hunger, not enough food for people, many people died.

After the independence, the situation was messy, disorganized, scramble, *barebut huap* " fighting for the food/resources"

5. Do you have memory of Dutch violence against Indonesians?

Remember KNIL and ID.

6. Do you know why people from your side wanted to work for the Dutch?

I don't know

7. Do you remember how the Laskars operated here and which Laskars?

No

8. Did you join a Laskar? What was the reason to join a Laskar?

Never

9. How was the relation to the villagers?

very bad

10. Can You tell us about the relationship between:

a. the BR and the Geromboloan, who were their leaders and what were their goals?

BR and gerombolan actually had the same character, blatantly criminal, taking what they want by force, including killing. Gerombolan and BR were much more violent than Japanese or Dutch. They created fear, show power, and were brutal.

b. You also mentioned a Laskar group led by Hilap

Pak Khilap is a leader of gerombolan living in Lamarin (north-east outskirts of Karawang. Warshad is a leader of BR living in Pasir awi. He show that he has power ; he can easily kill anybody;

11. These two were always fighting and killed many people?

yes, they were often fighting. I remember at least three times of big fighting

Amongst the victims were:

1. husband of Wa Nani , was shot in Balai Desa (Village office)

2. Husband of Wa Nomi being shot and the house being burned

3. husband of mak Iyem (Patiroh) being shot, and other victims were:

4. Kasta

5. Wanta

6. Encing and

7. Urce

12. Have you ever heard of Haji Darip? No

13. You told us about the death of Satria and the burning of his house, by whom?

➤ You better asked Satria's family about this

The case of RawaGedeh

1. What do you remember about the Rawa Gedeh case? When was the first time you heard about it?

> What I remember, I was in the rice field, with my buffalos, early morning about 6 o'clock, it was quiet morning as usual... but suddenly I hear something passing by above my head... very fast, and it was not a bird, I also hear the sound of shooting from faraway... I saw people run away from their paddy field. I left my karbau (buffalo's) just like that... and joined with the other to run away...

> at home, in the evening I heard from my parents that something happened, the turbulence..

2. Was there another period in which this region was attacked by the Dutch troops?

Did you ever have a talk with a Dutch soldier? What did you think of them?

➤ I never heard that

Karawang, Pasir Awi, 21 July 2015