

# MENCARI AKAR HINGGA KE NONGKOJAJAR

Belanda menagguhkan adopsi anak internasional setelah menemukan banyak kasus dugaan perdagangan manusia. Banyak anak asal Indonesia tak menemukan ibu kandung mereka.



**R**UMAH di Jalan Mohammad Toha Kilometer 18 Nomor 9, Pondok Cabe Udik, Pamulang, Tangerang, Banten, itu tampak sepi dari luar. Panti Asuhan Loka Kasih, yang membantu keluarga Belanda mengadopsi anak Indonesia, dulu berada di sini. Pada Kamis, 18 Februari lalu, rumah di tepi jalan raya Jakarta-Bogor itu tampak sumbu dengan gerbang tertutup rapat dan tumbuhan rimbun di pagar.

Menurut Mujianto, veteran Tentara Nasional Indonesia Angkatan Laut, hanya unit bengkel koperasi Angkatan Laut, yang menempati salah satu bagian rumah, yang kini masih aktif. "Loka Kasih dulu memang ada di sini. Tempatnya di bagian belakang. Tapi sudah lama tak ada lagi anak-anak (panti asuhan)," kata veteran yang bekerja di koperasi Angkatan Laut sejak pen-

siun pada 1996 itu. Dia lupa sejak kapan persisnya panti itu tidak aktif dan hanya bisa memperkirakan sekitar sepuluh tahun lalu.

Dewi Deijle, anak adopsi asal Indonesia, pernah ke sana pada 2010 saat mencari ibu kandungnya. Dia mengaku bertemu dengan pengelola panti. "Begitu melihat dokumen saya, dia langsung mengatakan tidak bisa membantu saya karena kebanyakan informasi di dalamnya palsu," tutur Deijle, yang kini menjadi pengacara di Negeri Kinir Angin.

Masalah anak adopsi kini mencuat setelah Komisi Penyelidik Adopsi Antarnegara pimpinan Tibbe H. J. Jousstra merilis laporan hasil investigasinya mengenai anak-anak adopsi di Belanda pada 8 Februari lalu. Komisi yang dibentuk pada 2018 atas perintah Menteri Perlingdungan dan Hukum Sander Dekker itu menemukan "penyelewengan-penyelewengan" serius terjadi dalam proses adopsi dari luar negeri, terutama dari Bangladesh, Brasil, Kolombia, Indonesia, dan Sri Lanka, selama 1967-1998.

Komisi itu mengkritik pemerintah Belanda, yang "sudah menentang pelanggaran-pelanggaran ini sejak akhir 1960-an" tapi "menggantikan tanggung jawab dan kewajibannya turan tanggar". Komisi menyatakan "banyak anak adopsi yang tidak bisa melacak asal-usul mereka".

Menteri Dekker menyatakan penyalahannya atas hal tersebut. "Saya, atas nama kabinet, meminta maaf kepada mereka yang diadopsi," ujarnya. Pemerintah kemudian memutuskan menagguhkan semua adopsi antarnegara.

Laporan itu juga menyoroti kasus anak adopsi dari Indonesia. Komisi mencatat, selama 1973-1984, 3.100 anak Indonesia telah diadopsi oleh keluarga Belanda. Mereka menemukan penyelewengan berskala besar dalam proses adopsi ini. "Terdapat petunjuk konkret adanya perdagangan anak, penculikan, dan pencurian. Juga be-

Rustjiam dan Raymond Blauw (Banani) dalam pertemuan pertama mereka di rumah Rustjiam di Nongkojajar, Pasuruan, Jawa Timur, Juni 2016.

Dewi Deijle memegang selebaran tentang informasi dirinya di Jakarta, 2019.

nyak pemalsuan dokumen, penghapusan, penipuan, dan korupsi oleh perantara dan panti yang tidak terpercaya," demikian banyak laporan tersebut.

Komisi mencontohkan kasus dugaan perdagangan 300 anak dari Biak pada 1979 yang melibatkan Flash, perantara adopsi dari Belanda. Peneliti, menurut Komisi, mulai menentaskan dugaan penyelewengan ini paling tidak pada November 1977.

Komisi Jousstra dibesut setelah banyak aduan dari anak-anak adopsi yang kini sudah dewasa dan gagal menemukan orang tua kandung mereka. Akta kelahiran mereka ternyata palsu atau orang tua mereka tak lagi bisa dilacak karena panti atau perantara yang dulu mengurus adopsi sudah tak ada.

Salah satu pengagutnya adalah Mijin Roots, yayasan yang membantu anak adopsi di Belanda mencari orang tua kandung mereka. Lembaga ini didirikan oleh Christine Verhaagen, dosen pembimbing di akademi manajemen KIPZ di Zwolle, dan Ana Maria van Valen, yang bermukim di Surabaya sejak 2015. Verhaagen berkenalan dengan Van Valen ketika sedang mencari orang tua kandungnya, yang sampai sekarang belum dapat ditemukan. "Akhirnya saya dan Ana beresapok untuk bekerja sama dan mendirikan Mijin Roots," ucap Verhaagen. Dalam lima tahun sejak berdirinya pada 2016, lembaga itu telah menagungi 17 kasus dan 77 di antaranya belum tuntas karena informasi yang tidak memadai atau palsu.

Pencarian "sakar" para anak adopsi ini berbuntut dan banyak menelaputi jalan baru. Rosmini van Schie, misalnya, disebut lahir di Bogor, Jawa Barat, pada 1980 dan diadopsi ke suatu panti asuhan di Jakarta. Pada 2009, dia mencoba mencari alamat yang tertera dalam dokumennya dan akhirnya bertemu dengan anak dari perantara adopsinya. Upaya pelacakan asal-usulnya terhambat di sini karena, "Orang tuanya salah meninggal dan tidak meninggalkan informasi apa-apa," katanya. "Seakan-akan saya kehilangan identitas. Apakah betul nama saya Rosmini?"

Begitu pula Yolanda Sumati dan Jeron Beijering, yang masing-masing lahir di Jakarta pada 1981 dan 1978. Mereka diadopsi melalui dua yayasan di Jakarta. Kedua-



Pertemuan anak-anak adopsi asal Indonesia yang diselenggarakan Mijin Roots di Kedutaan Besar Republik Indonesia di Den Haag, Belanda, November 2019.

nya berusaha melacak asal-usul mereka melalui Mijin Roots, tapi hingga kini belum menemukan titik terang. Mereka dan orang tua angkatnya merasa terpujki ketika mengetahui bahwa dokumen adopsi mereka palsu. Hal ini membuat keduanya ragu akan masa lalu mereka. "Apakah benar ibu saya menyerahkan saya dengan sukarela?" tutur Beijering.

Beberapa anak adopsi dengan berhasil menemukan orang tua kandung mereka. Misalnya Tin van Wijk, yang lahir di Semarang pada 1975 dan diadopsi lewat sebuah panti asuhan saat berusia enam bulan. Mijin Roots membantunya mencari Elysa Rosani, ibu kandungnya. Setelah mencari selama satu setengah tahun, lembaga itu akhirnya menemukan Elysa tahun lalu di Desa Susukan, dekat Semarang. "Ibu melahirkan di sebuah klinik bersalin di Semarang, tapi tiga hari kemudian saya hilang," ucap Van Wijk, yang belum sempat beres-beres dengan ibunya karena terhalang pandemi Covid-19.

Raymond Blauw, yang diadopsi oleh keluarga Leeuwarden ketika berumur dua tahun, juga menemukan orang tua kandungnya dengan bantuan Mijin Roots. Dia akhirnya bertemu dengan Rustjiam, ibunya, di Desa Nongkojajar, Pasuruan, Jawa Timur, pada Juni 2016. "Ibu bercerita bahwa saya berusia enam bulan ketika dia menitipkan saya kepada perawat di rumah sakit setempat karena kondisi kesehatannya dan keuangan yang buruk. Berpuluh-tahun dia menyimpan foto bayi saya di bawah bantalnya," ujarnya.

Reni Hokobergen, guru besar emeritus bidang adopsi di Universiteit Utrecht, menilai pemerintah seharusnya sudah lama turun tangan. "Sudah puluhan tahun saya berulang kali memperingatkan, lewat media dan bahkan langsung beberapa kali ke Kementerian Perlingdungan dan Hukum, tentang berbagai masalah dalam adopsi," ucap Hokobergen, yang juga diminta masukan oleh Komisi Jousstra.

Salah satu pemacu pembentukan komisi tersebut, kata dia, adalah desakan dari anak-anak adopsi yang kini telah dewasa. "Beberapa dari mereka berupaya menuntut pemerintah atas kekelainan menanganai masalah adopsi," tutur Hokobergen.

Tuntutan itu antara lain dilayangkan Dewi Deijle bersama Mijin Roots pada 2017. Walaupun tuntutan tersebut ditolak, mereka tetap gigih melobi parlemen untuk mengagkat masalah ini. Hal ini diakui oleh Michiel van Nispen, anggota parlemen dari Partai Sosialis SP. "Memurut saya, mereka turut berperan dalam realisasi investigasi adopsi antarnegara ini. Mereka terus mengagkat topik ini dan meminta perhatian politikus," ujar Van Nispen.

Christine Verhaagen dan Deijle bertemu dengan Menteri Sander Dekker pada Rabu, 10 Februari lalu, untuk membicarakan langkah pemerintah selanjutnya. Dalam jangka pendek, kata Verhaagen, pemerintah perlu memberikan dukungan finansial kepada anak-anak adopsi yang berupaya mencari orang tua kandung mereka karena proses pencarian dan tes DNA memerlukan biaya. "Waktunya mendesak karena banyak orang tua kami di Indonesia sudah lanjut usia. Sekarang sudah waktunya pemerintah mendukung kami!"

● LINAWATI SIDARTO (SAMPUTAN), IRWAN BURHAKHAN (LAKARTAI)

By Linawati Sidarto, 28 februari 2021.

This article is also published in English [Seeking Roots All the Way to Nongkojajar - International - magz.tempo.co](https://magz.tempo.co) (Premium article). See whole article below:

## SEEKING ROOTS ALL THE WAY TO NONGKOJAJAR

The Netherlands halted international adoption after cases of child trafficking came to public light. Many adopted children from Indonesia have not been able to find their biological mothers.

The house on Mohammad Toha Street kilometer 18 no 9, Pondok Cabe Udik, Pamulang, Tangerang, Banten, looked quiet from the outside. The Loka Kasih children's home, which assisted in the adoption of children by Dutch families, used to operate here. On Thursday, February 18, the house on the Jakarta-Bogor main thoroughway seemed desolate with its shut gate and overgrown vegetation. According to Mujianto, a veteran marine, a cooperative marine repair shop unit located there is the only part of the house which is still operational. "Loka Kasih used to be here. It was in the back. But it's been a while since there were children here," said the veteran, who has been working at the coop since his retirement in 1996. He said he does not recall exactly when the children's home stopped operating, but he estimated it was around a decade ago.

Dewi Deijle, who was adopted from Indonesia, went there in 2010 to seek out her biological mother. She met the person who managed the home then. "As soon as he saw my documents,

he immediately said that he couldn't help me because most of the information in them were fake," said Deijle, who is a lawyer in the Netherlands.

The topic of adoption became news after the Committee Investigating Intercountry Adoption, under Tjibbe Joustra, released its findings on February 8 regarding children adopted in the Netherlands. The Commission, set up in 2018 by Minister for Legal Protection Sander Dekker, found that "serious abuses surrounding intercountry adoption occurred," between 1967 and 1998 in the five countries it studied: Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The Commission pointed out that the Dutch government "was aware of adoption abuses" since the 1960s, and "failed to fulfill its responsibilities and obligations and neglected to intervene when there was reason to do so." Joustra's Commission further said that "because of the way in which their adoptions were conducted, many adoptees cannot discover their identities."

Minister Dekker said the government regretted this. "I, on behalf of the cabinet, express my apologies for those adopted," he said. The Dutch government decided to halt all intercountry adoptions for now.

The report also focused on adoption cases from Indonesia, noting that between 1973 and 1984, 3,100 children were adopted by Dutch families. The commission found large scale abuses in the adoption processes. "There were concrete indications of child trafficking, kidnapping and abductions. Also signals of document forgeries, embezzlement, fraud and corruption by intermediaries and dishonest care homes," the report said. One example the Commission pointed to was trafficking allegations of 200 children from Biak in 1979 which also involved Flash, a Dutch adoption intermediary. The Dutch government, the report said, already knew about alleged abuses since November 1977.

The Joustra Commission was formed following charges from adopted children that have become adults and failed to find their biological parents. Their birth certificates turn out to be false, or their parents cannot be tracked down because the children's home or the adoption intermediaries are no longer present. Among those raising their voices was Mijn Roots, a foundation which help adopted children in the Netherlands seek out their biological parents in Indonesia.

Mijn Roots was set up by Christine Verhaagen, an academic advisor at KPZ academy in Zwolle, and Ana Maria van Valen, who has been living in Surabaya since 2015. Verhaagen got to know Van Valen when the former tried to find her birth parents, whom she has been unable to locate until now. "Ana and I then decided to cooperate and set up Mijn Roots," Verhaagen said. Within five years since it started in 2016, the foundation has handled 177 cases, out of which 77 have yet to end positively because of insufficient or falsified information.

Seeking out the roots of adopted children is complicated, and often leads to dead-end streets. Take Rosmini van Schie, who is said to have been born in Bogor, West Java, in 1980 and adopted through a children's home in Jakarta. In 2009, she tried to look for an address that was on her adoption documents, and ended up meeting with the daughter of the adoption intermediary. Rosmini's efforts stalled, because "the intermediaries have passed away and did not leave any information behind," she said. "Sometimes it feels as if I've lost my identity. Is my name really Rosmini?"

Jolanda Sumiati and Jeroen Beijering were born in Jakarta respectively in 1981 and 1978, and adopted through two foundations in Jakarta.

Both of them tried to find their birth parents through Mijn Roots, but have yet to succeed. They, and also their adopted parents, were hit hard when they realized that the adoption papers were incorrect. It made them both question their past. “Did my mother really gave me up voluntarily?” Beijering wondered.

Some adopted children succeeded in finding their birth parent, such as Tim van Wijk, who was born in Semarang in 1975 and adopted through a children’s home when he was six months old. Mijn Roots helped him find Ellya Rosani, his biological mother. After searching for one-and-a-half years, Ellya was located last year at Susukan village near Semarang. “My mother gave birth to me at a maternity clinic in Semarang, but I disappeared three days later,” said Van Wijk, who has not been able to meet his mother in person due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Raymond Blauw, who was adopted by a family from Leeuwarden when he was two years old, also found his birth mother through Mijn Roots. He finally met Rustijam, his mother, at Nongkojajar village at Pasuruan, East Java, in June 2016. “She told me that she left me in the care of a nurse at a nearby hospital because of bad health and financial conditions. For decades she kept my baby photo under her pillow,” he said.

René Hoksbergen, emeritus professor specialized in adoption at Utrecht University, believes that the government should have acted much sooner. “For decades I’ve repeatedly warned, through the media and even several times directly to the Legal Protection Ministry, about problems in adoptions,” said Hoksbergen, who was also consulted by the Joustra Commission. One of the reasons the Commission was formed, he said, was because of pressure from adopted children who are now adults. “Some of them made efforts to take the government to court for their negligence in dealing with adoption problems,” Hoksbergen said. One of the cases was filed by Dewi Deijle together with Mijn Roots in 2017.

Even though the case was rejected, Dewi and Mijn Roots kept on lobbying for this cause in parliament. This was confirmed by Michiel van Nispen, MP from the Socialist Party SP. “In my opinion, they have played a part in realizing this intercountry adoption investigation. They continued to bring up this topic, and demanded attention for this from politicians,” said Van Nispen.

Christine Verhaagen and Dewi Deijle met with Minister Sander Dekker on Wednesday, February 10, to discuss the government’s next steps. In the short term, Verhaagen said, the government needs to give financial support to adopted children who want to find their birth parents, as the search process and DNA tests cost money. “Time is running out, as many of our parents in Indonesia are getting old. It is time for the government to support us.”

[Terug naar adoptiezaken in de media](#) (Ctrl + klik voor koppeling).