



Dear friends, followers, sympathizers, police and journalists,

The mission to which I felt called has come to an end. I hereby announce the termination of the initiative I started, I am closing this chapter.

In response to poignant images of demonstrations that were increasingly violently "smashed down", I made a social media appeal on 17 March 2021 to former soldiers and veterans to join forces under the heading "In the ranks for freedom" (IHGVV). and give a signal. A signal to uniformed police officers that the right to demonstrate was under pressure due to the use of disproportionate force by police officers who had been instructed to do so. I wanted to keep people who shun violence and who came to exercise their right to demonstrate free from any form of violence. Based on a simple but clear mission, supported by others, I took a role during demonstrations:

- Show understanding and respect for the person in the police uniform.
- Offer people the space to peacefully exercise their fundamental rights.
- Remain free from political views and opinions of both the protesters and the government.

I see IHGVV's mission as completed and at an end. Demonstrations are facilitated as it should be. A large part of those who stood up with me have gone their own way, joined other initiatives or, for example, contacted former colleagues, institutes or veterans' associations to continue talking about the state of our democracy. We all remain connected, but the joint mission has come to an end. I put my camouflage jacket back in the duffel bag in the attic.

I have confidence that the police are committed to democracy in accordance with the law and on the basis of human rights, society demands this. Police officers are more likely to encounter family and friends who are critical of the policy. I also expect that there will be more support within the police for facilitating the broad social discussion that is necessary in order to be able to communicate with each other as a society.

I have never expressed or had the intention to lead demonstrations as former soldiers or to help the police, these tasks belong to the police. We have only been supportive and have sent a clear signal that violence has no place in a democracy. I am grateful to the public and the police that we were able to cross this thin line and I feel that our intervention has had the right impact.

Personally, I would like to express my special thanks to everyone who has supported me in the mission and united and steadfastly contributed to it for as long as it was necessary. What remains is a brotherhood of wisdom and strength, friendship and respect. I trust that the Netherlands has a bright future ahead.

Unitum et firmum, with gratitude and respectful greetings,

Ard Daniels.