



Health Action International (HAI) is an independent, global network, working to increase access to essential medicines and improve their rational use through research excellence and evidence-based advocacy.

HAI Requests Government Documents on Generic Medicines Seizures

3 April 2009- Health Action International has filed an official request with the Dutch government, under the Wet Openbaar Bestuur (the Dutch-equivalent of a Freedom of Information Act), to release all documents related to the recent seizures of generic medicines in transit. We hope to obtain documentation that will help to identify the operating procedures or events that allowed these seizures to occur and to determine why these seizures continued to occur over a period of time.

Without an open assessment of the actions of the Customs Authorities and other departments within the Dutch government, it would be impossible to rectify the breakdown that has enabled legitimately-traded generic medicines in transit to be detained and, in some cases, destroyed.

We hope that by exercising the right to access the public documents related to these cases, it will finally become clear how and why vital medicines were prevented from reaching patients and consumers in developing countries.

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