

Background on Tarik Zahzah

On 29 January 2015 19-year-old Tarik Zahzah broke into the television studio of Dutch news broadcaster NOS. Tarik was born in the Netherlands, the son of an Egyptian father and a Dutch mother. At the time of the incident he was living at home, where his parents have a palm nursery. After his parents divorced he lived with his mother in Pijnacker.

The first rumours were that the student had acted alone, was possibly disturbed and was a loner who believed in a conspiracy theory. He himself told a journalist that it had not been his intention to kill anyone. Tarik was studying Molecular Science & Technology at Delft University of Technology. Robert T., a fellow student of Tarik's, gave a live interview on the radio the same evening and explained that he and Tarik were both first-year students at Delft. He described Tarik as an ordinary guy who said he did some kind of work with computers on the side.

Tarik went to the gym regularly and played football, and like many young men his age went out to clubs and bars to try and meet girls. By Robert's account, Tarik had said he wanted to move to Leiden because there were more girls there. After receiving poor marks he'd skipped classes for several weeks. It turned out that he had nothing to do with a hackers collective he had claimed to be part of, nor did he have any connections with the intelligence services. Chances are he was confused or 'just' felt the need to be the centre of attention.

Robert also said, though, that Tarik had recently 'said something peculiar'. 'He was into politics and sometimes talked about the power of big corporations and stuff. But his theories weren't extreme.' Some people said that Tarik was a conspiracy theorist. He was a big fan of Michael Jackson and at school performances he had shown how well he could imitate Jackson's dance moves. Tarik didn't believe that Jackson was really dead. He said that his death had been staged in an elaborate plot.

Sources:

<http://www.elsevierweekblad.nl/nederland/article/2015/01/slimme-jongen-maar-een-beetje-apart-wat-dreef-nos-indringer-1695308W/>

<http://www.elsevierweekblad.nl/nederland/article/2015/01/dit-weten-we-inmiddels-over-de-indringer-die-nos-zendtijd-eiste-1695289W/>

<http://nos.nl/artikel/2016264-wat-weten-we-van-tarik-z.html>