

Notes and light edited transcript of a conversation that Nicole Immler had with the owners of a biological rice farm in the village of Pasiwari, very close to Rawagede. Tati Krisnawati (Indonesian social worker, works for a NGO) en Paul ter Weel (Dutch agronomist who runs the biological rice farm). Tati's family comes from the village they live in, neighbouring Rawagede. Also present were photographer Suzanne Liem and interpreter Aji Yahuti Ramyakim.

TK: I am from here. My uncle was a victim. The problem is complicated, it is not just that the Dutch came and shoot people, but the conflict existed already beforehand. They said my uncle was a spy for the Dutch. According to my mum,.....The uncle had a clean garden, compared to the others, so the Dutch sat there, he was killed brutally with a knife. The whole family don't want to say this.

Three elderly people from this village talked to Stef in Juli 2015 about their memories of the 45-49 period. One was asked: did you ever meet a Dutch soldier? No, no, he answered, I was just a kid, I caught a big fish, but they did not even see me.

PtW: You had a few military people around here, few soldiers, it was mostly intelligence. They visited the nice house, nice trees, welcoming people. And so on.....they sit there, at your uncles place....the others got suspicious...There was not really a presence of military here, hardly,, there was a presence of Indonesians gangs, and these are from the colonial period, when you had big landlords in the Western part of Karawang, and these landlords had their own small armies. They would handle everything with guns. During the Japanese time (of the 3 men, one worked for the Japanese), those gangs were suppressed. But after the Japanese surrendered and handed over to the English and later the Dutch came back, these gangs started again, organized; up to now. Amongst each other they fight, they control. They come to your house and say. Open, open the rice storage, and they would unload all the rice and take it away.

TK: During the Japanese occupation there was an official policy of taking the rice, half of the stock give to the Japanese so that they can fight. Then the gang continued this kind of ...policy....rice and the women, when they saw beautiful women....then....for the Indonesian gangs...these gangs are because there was a power vacuum after the Japanese surrender, during the revolution period 1946/47 – its like in Irak now, used by local gangs to take control, the Baru islam people and some other gangs..they would collect rice,

TK: Korbel, and others...it was

AYR: There were these gangs here, and the Dutch came to restore order, that is the official story, and at the beginning it was like that, kind of, the idea was to restore order, it was a order from the queen, and then we would hand over Indonesia to the Indonesians.

TK: The problem the story is only from one source. Here in R, if you go there to know what is going on, all people say, go to pas Sukarman, he is the ex village head, and local parliament, during the Suharto area, very close relation with the military group, the Suharto party (Golkar). The story is one-sided.

If you want to ask the people, they are afraid, afraid to tell a different story. They always think they have no meaning, they feel they are stupid, they know little, no respect for their story. The story of Rawagede became dry and one-sided. We try ask ordinary people, what is their own story....to get a mosaic, a landscape....that is my problem with Rawagede.

I am living here I want to know, especially they said my uncle was killed, the whole family quite, not saying a word, especially if related with the 1965. One of my auntie, a singer in that time, then 1965 when it happened, singers, teachers, educated people,..... the whole family quiet, don't want to talk about it.

Just because a singer, even though not connect to military people,if the military want to kill, they just kill.

why has happened what, the whole community is silent, as if nothing has happened. The history is really dark, we are in the dark, I try a little by little....