

In a farewell letter dated 14 May 1940, Mr and Mrs Levy arrange the handling of their estate¹

Handwritten letter from Helena Martha Levy-Frijda² and Willem Albert Levy,³ 82 Frans van Mierisstraat, Amsterdam, to the Amsterdam police, undated⁴

To the Amsterdam police

Because it is impossible for us to live in a Netherlands that is *no longer* free, we have put an end to our lives.⁵

A copy of our will can be found in safe-deposit box no. 77 at Amsterdam Bank, Van Baerlestraat.

The money at our home can be used as needed to pay for a grave and burial. We do not care where we are buried, but we would like to be buried together or in two graves next to one another. Apart from that, we want a quiet funeral. We would like a simple headstone on our grave, and part of the money can be used for tending the grave.

We leave no debts but have credit at Amsterdam Bank, which can also be used to cover expenses if necessary. If possible, we request that you secure our possessions until the rightful heirs⁶ can receive them, should they still be alive.

1 NIOD, Doc. II/1390. This document has been translated from Dutch.

2 Helena Martha Levy-Frijda (1905–1940), housewife; married Willem Albert Levy in 1934 and moved with him from Assen to Amsterdam.

3 Willem (Willy) Albert Levy (1899–1940), physician; worked at Amsterdam Hospital from 1926; later worked in private practice; committed suicide together with his wife on 14 May 1940.

4 The dating is determined by a letter dated 23 May 1940 from Levy-Frijda's father, Joseph Aron Frijda, which is included in the bundle of files and describes the presumed course of events. The document contains handwritten underlining and a number of words are crossed out.

5 On the number of suicides after the German invasion, see Introduction, p. 36.

6 The couple were childless. No relatives who survived the Holocaust could be traced.