

Blogger to appear before Judge of Instruction today

PHILIPSBURG--Blogger J.R., who was arrested Tuesday on several charges of "verbal and written public defamation, stalking and insult," will be taken before the Judge of Instruction today, Friday, Prosecutor Tineke Kamps said on Thursday.

In the meantime, R.'s arrest came up during the debate with Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk in the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament on Thursday.

Dutch Member of Parliament (MP) Ronald Van Raak (SP) sought clarity on the arrest of the blogger on charges of "verbal and written public defamation,

stalking and insult." Van Raak said that even though it concerned an internal St. Maarten matter, "it appeared from a distance that it might be a political investigation." Van Raak said R. was a fierce critic of St. Maarten politicians with a "sharp mouth and a satiric undertone."

"Does this concern a political or criminal investigation? Or is this simply intimidation?" asked Van Raak, who demanded that the Second Chamber be informed on the matter. Plasterk responded that he did not have details on the case, which he referred to as a matter of Country St. Maarten. He did promise to keep the Second Cham-

ber informed.

R. (40) was arrested at her home in St. Peters. Police spokesperson Chief Inspector Ricardo Henson said in a press release issued on Tuesday that R.'s home had been searched during the arrest and a number of items had been confiscated including computers, video cameras and external hard drives.

Representatives of the Animal Welfare Foundation were witnessed assisting with the removal of animals from the property. No animal was hurt during the process.

R. was taken to the Philipsburg police station where she was held for questioning.