

Former Dutch minister found 'murdered' in her home

By Bruno Waterfield

DUTCH police have opened a murder investigation into the death of a former health minister who was the architect of euthanasia legislation when the Netherlands became the world's first country to permit mercy killing a decade ago.

Els Borst, 81, a trained doctor who twice served as deputy prime minister, was found dead in her garage on Monday by two neighbours.

Police said injuries found on Dr Borst's body during a post mortem examination in Maastricht and trace evidence in the garage gave "reason for us to believe" that she was a victim of a crime.

One theory is that Dr Borst may have been killed after discovering a burglar in the act of raiding her home.

Police have not ruled out a targeted attack on Dr Borst, a member of the Right-of-centre Democrats 66 party, and detectives are examining her recent contacts.

"Among other things, we will determine whether she might have been threatened," said Willem Woelders, the deputy chief of police for the central Netherlands.

Times

14.2.14