**46. October 21, 1687.** *Letter[[1]](#footnote-1) from Mennonite ministers in the area of Bern, Switzerland, to Jochem Wertmul at Amsterdam, with the report that the four brothers, who were put into prison four years ago, now have been released, a caution about stirring up the Bernese authorities, and thanks for what was done in the Netherlands on behalf of these prisoners.*

[recto]

Region of Bern, October 21, 1687

Dear friend,

As much as we have understood from your letter, please accept our simple, short and friendly letter as an answer to you. First of all, you should know that the four men who were imprisoned four years ago have been, praise God, released. Those who were released are first of all, Uly Krieg[[2]](#footnote-2) and myself, Saddler Hans, and I, Hans Steiner[[3]](#footnote-3) from Willer greet you also in the name of our congregations, and it is our wish that all of you who love and fear God with your whole heart pray to God for us, that we may continue to do His will until our end. We are minded to do the same for you as long as God grants us His grace. Further, concerning those who were imprisoned, and if we still have to come together in secret to teach the Word of God, and why this is, and if they[[4]](#footnote-4) will continue to take prisoners, and if they will continue to take away our possessions, we should not complain about our government. For it is written in the Gospel of Matthew 10, They will deliver you up to their council houses, and will scourge you in their meetings and they will bring you before princes and kings for my sake and you will be a witness to them and to the gentiles.

We do not know what will happen if a congregation is betrayed, but we should pray to God for them and it is our desire of you (as has been referred to above) that God may show them what they should do, and for what purpose He has installed them and set them in place: that is, to protect and shield the pious, and to punish the wicked according to His

will so that we may lead a righteous life until our end. Further, if they will take our children to their baptism, it is our desire, that you do not cause unrest with the government in Bern because of this, either in word or through letters, as you have indicated. Further, the aforementioned Uly Krieg and others with him thank you very much for having remembered [in prayer] our imprisoned brothers. May the Lord be your sure rewarder here in time and there in eternity.

[The names given in this are of those who composed this letter.

One of them has been imprisoned, that is, Ulrich Krieg.

Saddler Hans has been a minister fifteen years and more.]

[verso: address]

Jochem Wertmul at Amsterdam.

1. **46** 1 The original German letter is given in the present volume with a note at the end from a Dutch translation also kept in the Amsterdam Municipal Archives. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A note in the Langnau baptism register for 1692 mentions Uli Krieg, a nail maker who was an Anabaptist minister from Höchstetten. Müller, p. 125. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Saddler Hans and Hans Steiner may be the same person. Not all the prisoners are named. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Bernese civil authorities. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)