

NGO Alliance „No Amnesty on Genocide!“

Press Statement, 2/7/2015

After the Armenian debate: Civil society and opposition parties call for recognition of the genocide committed by German troops in present day Namibia during 1904-08. Leading members of the OvaHerero and Nama communities are due to come to Berlin

100 years after the end of German colonial rule in present day Namibia, a high-ranking Namibian delegation is expected in Berlin, the partner city of Windhoek (Namibia). The delegation will be headed by OvaHerero Paramount Chief Adv. Vekuii Rukoro and national Assembly deputy Ida Hoffmann representing the Nama. On Monday, July 6, at 10 a.m., the Namibian guests will attend the handing over of the first lists of signatures to the petition 'Genocide is Genocide' to the Federal President.

In their petition on occasion of the centenary issued on 9 June 2015, the NGO alliance "No Amnesty on Genocide!" and more than 150 prominent primary signatories from academia, politics, the churches and cultural life, the Black Community and NGOs call on Germany to mark the centenary of the end of 'German Southwest Africa' on July 9, 2015 to at last come up with a clear statement about the genocide committed against OvaHerero and Nama. Furthermore, the signatories urge an official apology and the return of numerous human remains that have been deported from Africa for racist research endeavours. They also demand that OvaHerero and Nama be seen as immediate partners in negotiations for appropriate reconciliation measures.

Even present day Foreign Minister Steinmeier (Social Democratic Party) had raised these demands in 2012. They have now been taken up in recent Bundestag motions by the opposition parties, The LEFT and Coalition 90/The Greens. These motions put additional pressure on the Federal Government. In its reply to a parliamentary question by Coalition 90/The Greens concerning the German colonial past, the Government mentioned, i.a., that it is engaged, since June 2014, in a dialogue with the Namibian Government, including 'for the first time, the search for a joint position and a common language in relation to the brutal colonial war of 1904 to 1908' ([BT Drucksache 18/5166](#)).

On July 7, 2015 at 5 p.m., representatives of civil society and of Namibian victim groups will place flowers at the ignominious 'Namibia Stein' - to date the only place in Berlin which relates to the memory of the victims of German colonial rule. At 7 p.m., the Namibian guests will participate in a panel discussion at Werkstatt der Kulturen, and will report on the genocide of 1904-08 and their own ongoing struggle for 'restorative justice'.

Petition, government answer, etc.: <http://genocide-namibia.net/>

Petition handing over: 6.7.um 10 Uhr, Bundespräsidialamt, Spreeweg 1, 10557 Berlin

Memorial ceremony: 7.7. um 17 Uhr, Friedhof Columbiadamm 122, 10965 Berlin

Panel discussion: 7.7. um 19 Uhr, Werkstatt der Kulturen, Wissmannstr. 32, 12049 Berlin

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