

NGO-Alliance *No Amnesty on Genocide!*

Press Release dated 10-07-2015

Genocide in Namibia Finally Recognized: What needs to follow now is an official apology to, and, involvement of OvaHerero and Nama in the negotiation process

According to the government spokesperson, Dr Schäfer, on Friday, 10/07/2015, the German government officially acknowledged the genocide in Namibia while it had signalled earlier that it was negotiating with the Namibian government on financial reparation. This came about after intense public pressure from the civil society, from politics, and the media both in Germany and Namibia, and after the German Speaker of Parliament, Prof Dr Norbert Lammert, had acknowledged genocide against OvaHerero and Nama.

Clearly this is something we welcome.

However, the official formulation: "The war of extermination in Namibia from 1904 to 1908, was a war crime and constitutes genocide" is not satisfying. The apparent anachronism - neither the Namibian state nor the Namibian nation existed at that time - suggests that the OvaHerero and Nama, until today directly affected by the genocide and ensuing expropriations, may continue to be excluded from the reparations negotiations.

This impression is reinforced by a lack of clarity about whether the German government will officially apologize to the OvaHerero and Nama, or whether the government will maintain its paternalistic approach of having a "special historical responsibility towards Namibia and its citizens", but fail to acknowledge Germany's historical responsibility for the genocide towards the OvaHerero and Nama.

The NGO-alliance will therefore keep up its initiative *Genocide is Genocide!* until 02 October 2015, when 111 years will have passed since the German genocide order was issued, and continue to win over further supporters.

Israel Kaunatjike of the NGO-alliance and OvaHerero activist says: "We welcome the long overdue acknowledgement of genocide and consider it a great success after many years of fighting for it. However, the German government's choice of words gives rise to the fear that an official apology to the OvaHerero and Nama has not been taken into consideration. What is worse, as the directly affected and then expropriated communities, we are excluded from the current reparations negotiations between the German and Namibian government not only now but as it looks like also in the future. We will never accept that."

Petition, government response, motions of the opposition,etc.: <http://genocide-namibia.net/>

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(Unauthorized) Engl. Translation of Foreign Office press conference protocoll:
http://www.namibia-botschaft.de/images/stories/Aktuelles/Press_Conference_10_July_2015_Yes_it_was_genocide.pdf