

Niema Movassat, MP of the LEFT PARTY in the German Bundestag, 16th March 2016

Genocide on the OvaHerero and Nama peoples: Stop the secret diplomacy!

“The debate on the correct handling of the German genocide on the OvaHerero and Nama peoples and its consequences has to be put in the center of our democracy: The Bundestag. The ongoing secret diplomacy, that excludes even the descendants of the survivors, is not acceptable”, says Niema Movassat, Foreman of the LEFT PARTY Parliamentary group in the Committee on economic cooperation and development on the occasion of the debate and final vote on 17th March 2016 on the motion tabled by the LEFT PARTY Parliamentary group: “Reconciliation with Namibia – remembrance of and apology for the genocide in the former colony of German South-West Africa” (Bundestag Printed Paper 18/5407). He continues:

“Since 2015 high ranking politicians of the governing coalition also speak of *genocide* that was committed by the German “Schutztruppe” (“protection force”) from 1904-08. This is very good, better late than never. It is however disturbing, how the federal government is keeping away from the public and the Bundestag the urgently needed social and political debate on the consequences. This fuels suspicion and is unacceptable.

We are talking about immeasurable human suffering and to this day significant economic damage to the descendants of the victims. This demands for symbolic and material compensation. Most importantly, however: The descendants of the victims of this genocide have to have a seat at the negotiating table! There will be no lasting reconciliation without them.

The governing coalition did not use the time they had – to the present day they did not table their own motion. Nor is there any initiative for a broad motion, supported by all parliamentary parties. Therefore, the Green Party’s withdrawal of their motion is disconcerting. On such an important and sensitive issue, there must be a mandate from the Bundestag for government negotiations. And we need this debate and this resolution right now!

Therefore the LEFT PARTY calls on all parliamentary groups to take responsibility and send out a strong signal against racism by endorsing our motion.”

The German version of this Press release: <http://movassat.de/2355>

Here you can find the motion of the LEFT PARTY Parliamentary group “Reconciliation with Namibia – remembrance of and apology for the genocide in the former colony of German South-West Africa” (Bundestag Printed Paper 18/5407):

http://dokumente.linksfraktion.net/mdb/20150701_LEFT_PARTY_Genocide-Motion_English.pdf

German original: <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/18/054/1805407.pdf>