

16.03.2016 Press Release from the NGO-Alliance „No Amnesty on Genocide!“

Secret Negotiations on the Ovaherero and Nama Genocide Need to Stop!

At the 17th March 2016 at 4:30 pm a discussion will take place on demand of the political party The Left in the German parliament on the recently acknowledged genocide on the Ovaherero and Nama that took place from 1904-1908 in former “German South-West Africa”. The civil society alliance „No Amnesty on Genocide!“ demands the German parliament to finally take action, to ask for an apology from those affected and influence the current reparation negotiations between the German government and the Namibian government.

An entire century had to pass before the federal government finally opened negotiations in 2014 concerning the atrocities committed by the German Empire in today's Namibia. Only last year, the German government, on the pressure of the Ovaherero and Nama committees and a critical German civil society, recognized the crimes committed by the imperial "Schutztruppe" as genocide. In the forthcoming parliamentary debate on Thursday the deputies will have the opportunity to unequivocally commit themselves to Germany's historical-political as well as ethical and moral responsibility for the genocide and to symbolic and material reparations.

The alliance „No Amnesty on Genocide!“ urgently appeals to the members of all groups of the German parliament, to bow to the victims of the genocide and to officially ask the Ovaherero and Nama for forgiveness for the crimes committed 1904-08 on behalf of the German state and its highest representatives. The Bundestag has to ensure that representatives of the Ovaherero and Nama are no longer excluded from the ongoing reparation negotiations with the Namibian government. Without the consent and forgiveness of those whose resistant ancestors were murdered, expelled and dispossessed during the genocide 1904-08 there can be no reconciliation.

The civil society alliance urges the German Bundestag to ensure more transparency with regard to the ongoing negotiations which are taking place behind closed doors since several months. Christian Kopp says, "A joint Namibian-German interpretation of history and a sustainable reconciliation process cannot be discussed behind closed doors and then be decreed. Rather, the Federal Government should support the various initiatives that are striving for the further decolonisation of Namibia, Germany and the Namibian-German relationship. We need to ensure a public dialogue and exchange at all existing levels: On the colonial plunder of the land that once belonged to the Ovaherero and Nama people, on the deported bones and cultural treasures of the colonized which were brought to Germany, on the continuation of colonial propaganda in public space and above all on persistent racism that has emerged in both countries during the colonial period."

DEBATE IN THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG: Thursday, 17.03.2016 at 4:30-5:15 pm
<http://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2016/kw11-ak-voelkermord-afrika/413640>

PRESS RELEASE OF THE OVAHERERO- UND NAMA-COMITEES:
<http://genocide-namibia.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/PRESS-CONFERENCE-17-FEBRUARY-2016.pdf>

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MORE: <http://genocide-namibia.net/>