

Presentation and Input

Ronny P.J. Dempers

Nama Genocide Technical Committee (NGTC)

Globalising the Struggle

What the presentation shall cover

What has been the global nature and impact of the Genocide?

Why the need for globalising of the struggle?

What should the aims of this struggle be – what do we want to achieve?

What is restorative justice and how does it differ from the criminal justice system?

Highlights of key possible future actions

Some global impact of the genocide

It was not only mass killings but genocide has also caused serious cultural displacement (people forced into exile - refugees)

Loss of culture, roots, property etc.

The displaced communities have lost their ancestral land rights as they cannot claim any ancestral land rights

Looting of Africa's resources (historical artefacts, land and property)

Genocide has caused disruption in the generational history sequence as some have been forced out of their motherland

Genocide has sown seeds of hatred between the generations to follow

Genocide was and remains an act of imperialist invasion

About Globalisation of the struggle

Generic Definition of Globalisation

Globalisation is the process by which the world is becoming increasingly interconnected as a result of massively increased trade and cultural exchange.

Globalising the Struggle – Restorative Justice After Genocide

We need to use the interconnectedness of this world to our advantage

Our struggle should be framed and anchored within the international social justice instruments / systems and also expose the Namibian and German governments about their inconsistent and contradictory practices

Overall aim of our struggle should be amongst others:

Secure restorative justice through reparation

What do we mean by restorative justice :

Restorative Justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behaviour. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that allow all willing stakeholders to meet, although other approaches are available when that is impossible. This can lead to transformation of people, relationships and communities.

Ensure repatriation of all Nama and Ovaherero remains

Communicating also the High Level Purpose of our Struggle: Why?

Immediate long term

Objectives:

Recognition

Apology

Reparation

Repatriation Our High Level Purpose

Peace Building amongst Nations and Citizens

It's a struggle for justice

Transforming relationships amongst citizens of Germany and Namibians including between Namibians and German Namibians

Our actions will / should bring about healing

We need to identify not only the costs but also the benefits

We need to identify and communicate the advantages of our struggle – that it is not a self centred struggle but a struggle whose outcomes will contribute towards building lasting peace and a just world order

(We need to find ways of communicating the disadvantages of allowing the status quo to continue as it is)

Different levels of our struggle

Global & local

Campaign to be waged at different levels

Need to realise that it will be demanding process both in terms of time and resources

The campaign should be waged at different levels:

Locally in Namibia (at Government and at Civil Society level primarily focusing on ensuring the active participation and engagement of the affected communities)

Nama and Ovaherero communities - Diaspora level

International level

Germany (government and civil society, UN, AU etc.

Possible Actions

GLOBAL

Intensify pressure on the German and Namibian Government for the inclusion of Nama and Herero representatives using all legal judicial means

Identify possible champions (e.g. former and current Buntestag MP's) that are supportive of our cause

LOCAL

Design and launch purpose driven awareness and education campaigns on the Genocide , its impact (present and current)

1. Transnational Non-governmental Congress on the Ovaherero and Nama Genocide RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AFTER GENOCIDE Berlin, 14.-16.10.2016

More citizen based actions aimed at cultivating understanding between Namibians and Germany (including Namibian Germans and German citizens

Regular contact and interaction amongst and with communities in the Diaspora

Strengthen / Establish suitable platforms for spearheading campaigns at country level and carry out resource mobilisation to help support the struggle financially , technically etc.

Handing over Congress Resolutions to public , government , Un etc.

Legal and judicial actions Campaign for return of looted items and remains e.g. as part of UN Decade for People of African Descent

Similar platforms are needed in Namibia to domesticate further the quest for restorative justice

GLOBAL & LOCAL

Mass mobilisation and education on the Genocide and its impacts especially amongst the affected communities and campaign for the right of affected communities inclusion in the negotiations.

Research and Document the process and the impact of the genocide and use this information in advancing our struggle.

Citizen Power is crucial , Citizens both in Namibia, Germany and in the Diaspora is a great resource at our disposal and we need to harness this resource to our advantage. Citizen Power will yield desired change.

We need to tap into and awaken the seemingly slumbering and silent voice of the church around this matter. The current generation on both side of the equation (perpetrators, victims etc.) should own up the process and play effective their roles

We should not underestimate the need for strengthening the unity between the affected communities. As any division between and amongst can be used to undermine our struggle. We should actively engage the Namibian Embassy in Germany as well as the German Embassy in Namibia.

Gangans!

Anything about us without us is against us!