

PRESS ADVISORY – March 15, 2017

This is to advise that a court conference in the case of *Rukoro et al v. Germany*, 17 -cv-00062-LTS is scheduled to take place before District Court Judge Laura Taylor Swain tomorrow, **March 16, 2017 at 10 a.m.** at the United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York, Courtroom 12D

A press conference will then be held from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at:

**Association of the Bar of the City of New York
42 West 44th Street
New York, New York**

The official representatives of the Ovaherero and Nama indigenous peoples of Namibia – including Paramount Chief Adv. Vekuii Rukoro -- will be present both in court and at the Press Conference.

On January 5, 2017, Paramount Chief Rukoro and others filed a federal class action lawsuit in U.S. federal court in New York, seeking damages for the Genocide of 1904-1908 in South West Africa (now Namibia) and a court order enjoining Germany from excluding them from participation in the current negotiations between the German and Namibian governments concerning the Genocide and wrongful taking of property from the Ovaherrero and Nama peoples.

The two lead plaintiffs – P.C. Rukoro and Chief David Frederick, Chairman of the Nama Traditional Authorities Association – together represent the Ovaherero and Nama peoples of Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, the United States and elsewhere, brought this lawsuit after having repeatedly petitioned the German government to include them in the ongoing settlement discussions, without success.

The Complaint alleges that both Germany and Namibia are parties to the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on September 13, 2007, and that Article 18 of the 2007 Declaration provides that “indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves ...” ###

For more information, press only:

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