
SKULLS - THE EVIDENCE OF CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY



PRESS STATEMENT

**New York City Museum of Natural History: Presents remains
of OvaHerero and Nama genocide victims**

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13th September, 2017

By

The Paramount Chief of the Ovaherero, Advocate, Vekuii Rukoro

Director of Ceremonies –

Members of the Media –

Fellow Traditional Leaders present –

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Public!

I have invited you - the Media – in order to inform you and, through you, the entire Namibian Nation and indeed the whole World at large that it has been brought to my attention by our lawyer, Mr. Kenneth McCallion, who is handling the court case that Chief David Frederick and I have filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, that there are human remains of Ovahereros and Namas in the Anthropology Division of the Museum of Natural History of the City of New York.

Arrangements are being made for the Ovaherero and Nama Delegation to view these remains during our time in New York in October to attend the court proceedings.

These human remains have been part of the private collection of Professor, Lieutenant Felix von Luschan's Okahandja Battalion during the period of 1904 to 1908. Lieutenant Felix von Luschan was notorious for the extermination of many Hereros and sold skulls to medical institutions and medical students in Germany on request.

He is the same racist Anthropologist who provided these remains to the New York City Museum of Natural History.

The latest finding consists of four skulls of Ovaherero and Nama origin. As soon as we have gathered more information from the

Museum, hopefully after our return from the court proceedings mid-October, I may be in a better position to shed more light on these remains.

Director of Ceremonies –

One other thing that I should say already at this stage is that we are proposing to keep these remains in the United States of America, indeed in New York City in close proximity to the Statue of Liberty in New York City and the United Nations Headquarters, the latter institution to which our late Paramount Chief Hosea Kutako sent petitions in the 1940s to denounce South Africa's plans to incorporate South West Africa as the 5th province of South Africa.

The United Nations is inextricably linked to the history of Ovaherero and Nama people, and the independence of Namibia. Further the current mystery surrounding the whereabouts of the skulls already returned to Namibia from Germany leaves us to decide that our ancestors' skulls remains free for the world to see and learn about this tragic part of our history and consequently support us in our demands for reparations.

Finally, it is my hope that the New York City Museum of Natural History will have paved the way for other institutions in the United States of America to reveal similar items in their possession to expose the extent to which Imperial Germany has committed crimes against the humanity on the African Continent in the 21st century.

The global community, the nations of humanity and democratic institutions the world over should take note that Germany continues to exclude the Authentic Traditional Leaders of the Ovaherero and

Nama Victims of Genocides from direct involvement in the on-going negotiations with the Government of Namibia. In the latest development, the two Governments are hatching a dubious plan to establish a Trust Fund that will be used to fund projects in our communities with the aim to neutralise our GENUINE DEMANDS FOR REPARATIONS. This Trust Fund is nothing else than a revamped German Special Initiative, planned by an RACIST GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN CAHOOTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA, both hell-bent to marginalise the Ovaherero and Nama people the world over!

This time-around, Germany is allegedly planning to manage the Trust Fund directly from Germany because of the lack of trust it has in the Namibian Government to appropriate funds as earmarked. This is so typical an German Government!

In-as-far as the Genocide and Reparations are concerned, the governments of Germany and Namibia must know that we will continue to fight for a just cause – come what may; there shall be NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!

We shall continue to exhaust all possible legal means at our disposal, but if these legal options fail – we know where our land is!!

In conclusion, we call upon all peace-loving people in Namibia, the SADC region, Africa and the world-over to join us in our demands for restorative justice.

I thank you!

And let me allow you to ask questions.