

## **Press Release**

Munich, 20th of August 2018

### **Apology for the genocide now! – Genocide does not become statute-barred!**

#### **Solemn Vigil on the occasion of the return of human skulls to Namibia**

**on the 29th of August from 5pm until 8pm on the corner of Hererostraße/  
Waterbergstraße in Munich.**

On the 29th of August at 10.30am a ceremony will take place at the Französische Dom in Berlin during which the mortal remains of the Herero and Nama that were murdered during the genocide committed by the Germans between 1904-1908 and a bible that belonged to Henrik Witbooi, the resistance leader of the Nama will be returned to a delegation of the Namibian government.

We welcome the long overdue return of the mortal remains which were abused for racist research and the stolen cultural object which is of great importance for the historical remembrance in Namibia.

But this can only be the first step. We need Germany to acknowledge responsibility for its colonial crimes and also for the genocide in what was the territory of „Deutsch-Westafrika“.

For this to proceed in a proper manner members of the associations for Herero and Nama victims have to be included in the process of the Namibian-German compensation negotiations. It is crucial that actions for compensation, the acknowledgment of guilt and the apology are carried out by the German government.

On this topic the Herero activist Israel Kaunatjike from the organisation „Völkermord verjährt nicht!“ in Berlin stated: *„Why does the German government pass the return of our abused ancestors on to the protestant church in Germany? We demand that a state-run ceremony takes place in the Bundestag during which an official request of apology for the genocide 1904-1908 is finally made towards (in presence) the representatives of Herero and Nama.“*

*„A historical and critical rehabilitation of these crimes does not only entail the return of all stolen mortal remains and important cultural objects, but also a change in the German public presentation of the colonial era in terms of the honouring of perpetrators of the genocide through street names and memorials.“* - Hamado Dipama of the Arbeitskreis Panafrikanismus München

Zara Pfeiffer of [muc] münchen postkolonial states: *„Berlin has undertaken positive steps towards the re-naming of historically burdened streets. We expect these steps also from Munich, which likes to present itself as a cosmopolitan city with a heart, concerning the more than twenty street names with colonial regard in Trudering and Bogenhausen.“*

We would like to show our solidarity with the descendants of murdered Herero and Nama in Namibia and want to articulate the demands stated below. We invite you to join us **at the solemn vigil on the 29th of August from 5pm until 8pm on the corner of Hererostraße/ Waterbergstraße in Munich.**

## **Demands:**

- An official apology by the German government concerning the colonial crimes and the genocide.
- The re-naming of all the streets in Munich that were named after colonial perpetrators.
- The implementation of the „rehabilitation Germany’s colonial history“ which was stipulated in the coalition contract.

## Appeal by:

-Arbeitskreis Panafrikanismus München

- [muc] münchen postkolonial

-Migrationsbeirat der LH München

-Initiative Schwarze Menschen in Deutschland

-Netzwerk Rassismus- und Diskriminierungsfreies Bayern