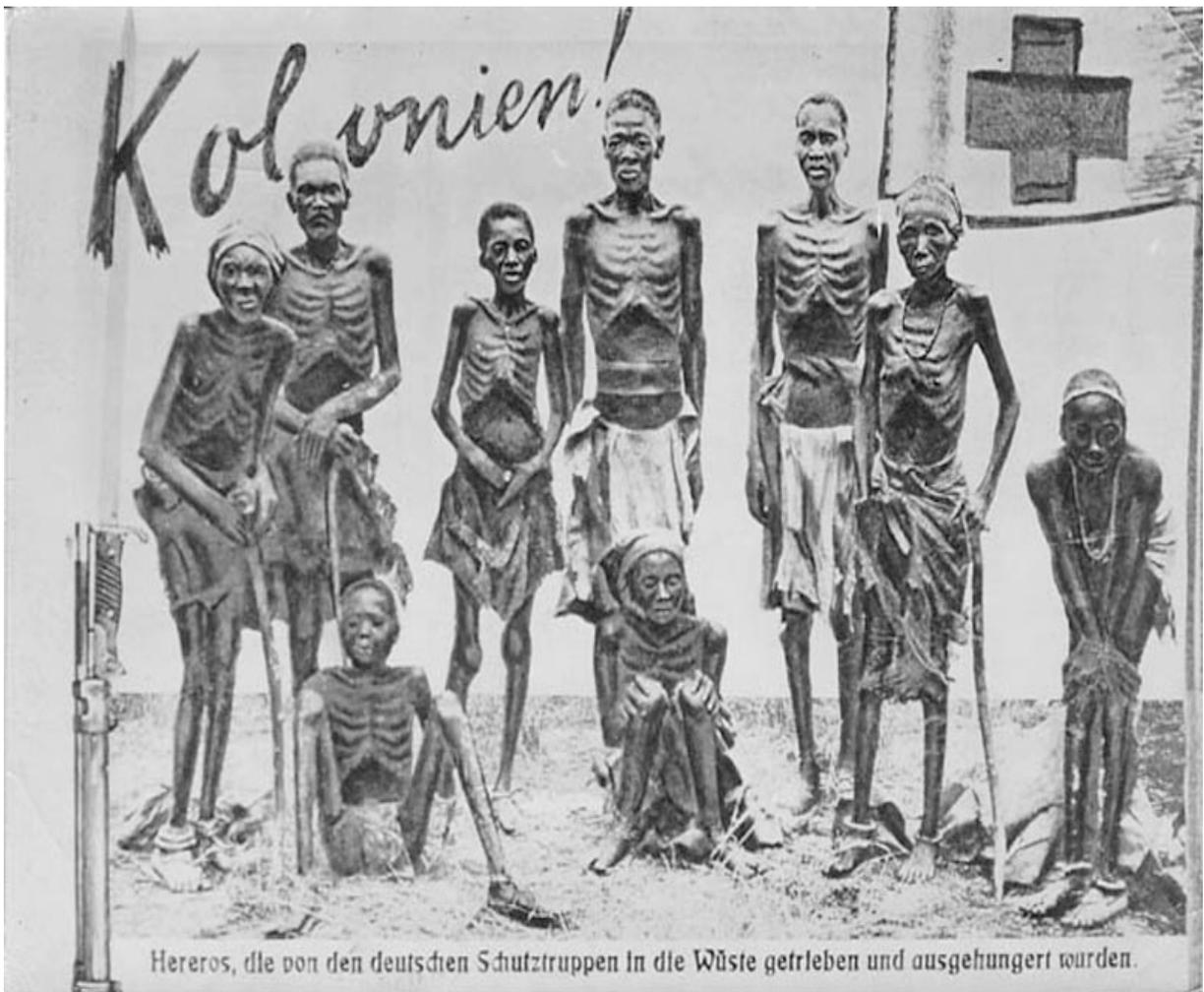


JOINT STATEMENT BY THE
OVAHERERO AND NAMA PEOPLE TO
THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES ON THE
FORMAL APOLOGY TO THE
ABORIGINES BY THE AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT ON 05 MARCH 2008



Director of Ceremonies,
Distinguished Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow us first to express our appreciation and thanks to you all for having put your time at our disposal and on such a short notice.

We have invited you so that we can express our response to some of the latest events in Australia, and to convey through you to the whole world, our response as the Ovaherero and Nama People.

Although Australia as a Continent is quite far away from Africa and indeed from Namibia, what the Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable Kevin Rudd, said is close to the issue we have with the German government, and as such, we have decided to make a comment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The meritorious apology offered by the Prime Minister of Australia to the Aborigines should encourage and or arouse the conscience of the German people and government to do the same to the Nama and Ovaherero people of our country for the crime of genocide against them and reinforce it with commensurate reparation to them as victims.

Doing so would only be doing the right thing for which the German Chancellor might qualify herself for a Nobel Peace Price laureate and earn her a big applause from these two mostly affected groups in Namibia.

Surreptitious, behind the scene, shuttling between Germany and Namibia, especially on the part of the

German officials won't resolve the issues raised by the Nama and Ovaherero in their "Joint Position Paper"...on the issue of Genocide and Reparation.

The German government must rise to the occasion and come to terms with the German colonial past in our country, apologize and compensate so that by doing so the German people as a whole might open a new window through which to see what transpired during the German colonial era in this country. So far very little is known to German nationals in this regard.

Our own government must urge the German government to emulate the Australian example and follow suit, apologize to the Ovaherero and Namias and pay reparation for damages.

Peoples of the whole world who know what had happened to us during the German colonial period in this country, we implore you to persuade the German government to follow the Australian example on our behalf as a gesture of solidarity to our cause and request for reparatory justice.

When Germany declared war against the whole world during World War I and II, she was twice punished by forfeiting all her colonies, including our country, and in the case of the Jewish Holocaust, she was made to pay damages to the Jewish people and the State of Israel, as she is still doing.

There is no difference between the Jewish Holocaust and the Nama / Herero Genocide, and if for the former, compensation to the tune of billions of US\$ was paid and is still

being paid, why not the same for the latter?

I thank you all

