



January 23rd, 2017

The Editor
The New York Times
New York City, NY

Re: "A Colonial-Era Wound Opens in Namibia" Article

I am writing in reference to the NYT's article, "A Colonial-Era Wound Opens in Namibia", written by Norimitsu Onishijan, which appeared in your paper on January 21st, 2017.

First, I want to thank the NYT for informing the world about the forgotten genocide of the Ovaherero and the Nama peoples committed by Imperial Germany from 1904-1908. The purpose of my writing is to remind the NYT and its readers that the controversy over the statue is not the only current news on the Ovaherero and Nama genocide. There is also a lawsuit and petitions to the United Nations that are pending.

On January 5, 2017, the Ovaherero and the Nama peoples filed a federal class action lawsuit in U.S. federal court in New York against Germany for excluding the legitimate Ovaherero and Nama leaders from participating in the talks Germany is conducting with the government of Namibia on the issue of their genocide.

The written Extermination Orders Germany issued against the Ovaherero in 1904 and against the Namas in 1905 resulted in the killing of over 100,000. "Germany's impetus to expand into Africa in the 1880s was fueled largely by the concept of "Lebensraum" ("living space") espoused by German geographer Friedrich Ratzel, which was based upon the misguided belief in German biological and racial supremacy and insisted that Germany and its "Volk ohne Raum" ("people without space") had an obligation to colonize other lands to create the extra space "living space" needed to cure Germany's urban overcrowding. Although Adolf Hitler later expanded this concept with deadly efficiency during the Third Reich, it first took root in the German colonization of South West Africa." (Class Action Complaint, 2017).

The result of the genocide was brutal. Over 81% of the Ovaherero nation was wiped out. Over 50% of the Nama nation was wiped out. The survivors died under inhumane conditions in the concentration camps. "There are also direct links between the medical experiments on the remains of the Ovaherero and Nama victims by Dr. Eugen Fischer, a German biologist and "race scientist," and later medical procedures used during the Nazi Holocaust. For example, Fischer later became chancellor of the University of Berlin, where he taught the medicine to Nazi physicians. Otmar Freiherr von Verschuer was a

student of Fischer, and Verschuer himself had a prominent pupil, the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele, who experimented on victims at the Auschwitz camp” (Class Action Complaint, 2017).

The Ovaherero and the Nama people are represented by McCallion & Associates, LLP in the class action lawsuit. As such, I refer you to Kenneth F. McCallion for more information on the case. He can be reached at 646-366-0884 or via email: kfm@mccallionlaw.com.

I am the Interim President of the Association of the Ovaherero Genocide in the US, and we are also a party to the lawsuit. For further information, I can be reached at 785-864-3401 or through my email: kamatuka@ku.edu.

Thanks,



Ngondi A. Kamatuka, Ph.D.

Cc: Kenneth F. McCallion