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**Joint-Statement of Ovaherero Traditional Authority [OTA] and the Nama
Traditional Leaders Association [NTLA] on the South African ICJ's case
against ISRAEL**

And

**Subsequent state pronouncements by the Federal Republic of Germany and
the Republic of Namibia.**

WINDHOEK, Namibia, January 14th, 2024.

The Ovaherero and Nama Nations in Namibia and in diaspora join progressive forces around the world in condemning the unfolding genocide in Palestinian territories. Palestine has been occupied by Israel for more than half century under conditions purposefully designed to end human life and frustrate their quest for statehood, national identity and belonging. Palestine is the home of the Palestinian people.

We the Nama and Ovaherero people were subjected to these very same genocidal conditions by Imperial Germany driven primarily by an unquenchable thirst for Lebensraum, just as Zionist Israel is driven by a thirst to drive Palestinians out of existence. South Africa is today a source of great hope for us who are denied justice for the total obliteration of our then sovereign countries of Ehi Ovaherero and Great Namaqualand. This loss is manifested in countless human lives lost and publicly sanctioned theft of our livestock. Our properties today continue to sit in the hands of German settler descendants robbing us off our due inheritance and means of livelihoods.

It is our sincerest hope that South Africa serves as a blueprint and benchmark for us all to decide that we will fight for the oppressed, battered and abused. South Africa, you have amplified the voice of our cause. We hope that the entire Africa can be a

reservoir of hope and possibilities for a life and future under a different geopolitical order and economic order, freed from the Global North exploitation of our resources.

We will now come to the position of Namibia, which continues to play an adverse role in the quest of the Nama and Ovaherero people to achieve justice. The same Namibia which now condemns Israel and Germany has denied the Ovaherero and Nama people meaningful participation rights in negotiations about genocide with Germany. The same Namibia agrees with Germany that the genocide committed against the Nama and Ovaherero people can only be considered “genocide from today’s perspective”. The implication of this view by Germany and Namibia is that it was not genocide at the time it was committed. Yet the Namibian Presidency is negotiating an addendum to a framework which deems our ancestors’ savages at the time they were brutally murdered.

Seven Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations stated that the German and Namibian Governments violate the very UN Convention under which South Africa now prosecutes her case against Israel. The same Namibian Government which now condemns Israel and Germany, silences the Nama and Ovaherero people through a misplaced and illegal notion of state-state bilateral talks. This is hypocrisy at its highest level. It seems as if the Namibian Government is enemy to none and friend to all, as long as its immediate elite interests are protected.

It is very interesting that Germany out of its own guilt and sense of responsibility now protects Israel who is committing genocide against the Palestinian people and yet forgets it has not even acknowledged the genocide it committed against the Nama and Ovaherero people. It is also interesting that the Namibian government which refuses to take the German government to ICJ for genocide against its own citizens now condemns Germany on a genocide committed by Israel. Clearly all the parties involved, apart from the Nama and Ovaherero people and their solidarity alliance across the world, do not see psychological trauma that was created by colonialism and specifically by the genocide committed by Germany.

The singularity conceptualisation of the Jewish Holocaust committed by Germany has now blown up a dynamite under the feet of German and Israeli collective consciousness. Germany’s support for Israeli genocide against the Palestinian people has confirmed the continued colonial agenda of the modern state Germany.

We welcome wholeheartedly the condemnation of the Namibian Government against Israel and Germany, but find it awkward to understand how the Namibian government protects Germany against Nama and Ovaherero citizens of Namibia. Clearly the Namibian government only supports Germany in exchange for little jacked-up financial resources to its woeful budget and the most laughable promises of economic spinoffs from “green” hydrogen energy production. The green hydrogen hype practically returns Namibia to colonial times where African land once more is prime production line for German industrial energy needs. We urge our government to wake up from her long slumber, or risk being remembered as a government that only responds to the interest of its elite.

We would like to assume that the communication from the Namibian Presidency and specifically circulated online utterances by the First Lady of Namibia, Madam Monica

Geingos who honourably called us by name, is indicative of shift in Namibian public policy towards issues of our justice pursuits.

Mr Hage Geingob, just as you support South Africa in taking Israel to the International Court of Justice in support of the Palestinian people, support us the Nama and Ovaherero people to take Germany to the International Court of Justice for genocide committed by Germany against the Nama and Ovaherero people,

Issued by Ovaherero Traditional Authorities [OTA] and the Nama Leaders Association [NTLA]

Reference: Nandi Mazeingo and Sima Luipert