

PRESS RELEASE

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Hamburg, May 10, 2019

In Hamburg/Germany the colonial streets Woermannsweg and Woermannstieg will be renamed

An alliance of the associations of the descendants of the OvaHerero and Nama genocide victims in Namibia and the USA, the self-organisations of the Black Community in Germany and Hamburg as well as civil society initiatives welcome the planned renaming of the two streets Woermannsweg und Woermannstieg in Hamburg-Ohlsdorf. Mid April, the decision was unanimously made by the Regional Commission. The undersigned alliance had requested the two street renamings. The Party Die LINKE introduced the motion to the District Assembly Hamburg-Nord.

Dr. Kavemuii Murangi, OvaHerero, Mbanderu and Nama Genocides Institute, Inc. (ONGI), USA: „This name change rightly honors the victims of colonial violence and rejects the ideology of *white* supremacy and its adherents who visited untold destruction and misery on the people of Namibia. It is an action of hope, and an important step in the process of getting justice for these victims.“

Millicent Adjei, head of the association Arca – African Education Center and member of the Work Group Hamburg Postkolonial: „In Hamburg, for a long time we have been engaged in renamings of streets that still honour colonial murderers. We are very pleased with this overdue decision.“ Now she hopes for near-term renamings of the colonial streets in Hamburg, says Adjei and adds that It is essential to change perspectives. The undersigned alliance calls for new street names that commemorate personalities who fought against the colonial conquest in the then „German Southwest Africa“ (today: Namibia).

Adolph Woermann was a colonial merchant, shipping company and plantation owner in West Africa as well as a war criminal. In „German Southwest Africa“, he benefited from the genocide against the Nama and OvaHerero. He set up own concentration camps for the people returning from the desert. He let the prisoners of war - children, women and men - be deported and forced to labour. Woermann also had a de facto monopoly in Hamburg harbour for transporting soldiers of the German colonial army and their armament; the reason why he was in a position to require overstated freight costs from the German Reich Government.

- Nama Genocide Technical Committee, Namibia
- Association of the Ovaherero Genocide in the United States of America (AOG), USA
- OvaHerero, Mbanderu and Nama Genocides Institute ONGI, USA
- Bündnis Völkermord verjährt nicht! / No Amnesty on Genocide!
- Initiative Schwarze Menschen in Deutschland e.V. ISD-Bund
- Initiative Schwarze Menschen in Deutschland ISD-Hamburg
- Arca – Afrikanisches Bildungszentrum e.V.
- Quo Vadis, Hamburg?
- Arbeitskreis Hamburg Postkolonial
- Willi-Bredel-Gesellschaft-Geschichtswerkstatt e.V.



In April 2018, the associations of the descendants of the OvaHerero and Nama genocide victims, the self-organisations of the Black Community in Germany, civil society initiatives, and numerous people from Hamburg demonstrated in front of Woermann's „Afrikahaus“ in the Große Reichenstraße in Hamburg (Photo: afrika-hamburg.de).

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