



Photo: Larissa Förster

ON HOME SOIL ... The commemoration of Namibian human remains – abducted around 1900 and returned from Germany in 2014 – in Parliament Gardens in Windhoek.

# Tracing the descendants of Kuiseb's 1884 grave robbery

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In early December 1884, the German scientist Waldemar Belck arrived at Walvis Bay with three skeletons in order to ship them to Berlin.

The scant information available tells us that he had stolen them from graves in the lower Kuiseb. They belonged to three men who had died on 30 March that year during a cattle raid by Herero at a place called IlKharabes close to Rooibank. A few weeks later the men had been buried by Kaptein Jan Jonker Afrikaner.

### Measuring People

Months later, word of Belck's arrival at Walvis Bay spread quickly. He reported that the daughter (unnamed) of one of the deceased, Jacobus Hendrick, was demanding her father's remains. Instead of complying with her demand, Belck gave her the skull of Jacobus !Garisib, another of the men who had died during the raid. He then shipped the remains, including those of a third man, Oantab, to Berlin.

There they entered a large collection of human remains built up by German scientists for the purpose of 'scientific research' into 'human races'. They remain in the collection until today.

Belck had been a member of one of the so-called Lüderitz expeditions and in August 1884 had witnessed the hoisting of the German flag at Angra Pequena/Lüderitzbucht. The occasion was to mark that part of Namibia being proclaimed a German colony.

He had brought with him photo apparatus and anthropometric instruments. During his initial travels in southern Namibia he 'measured' and otherwise described the physical appearances of – predominantly – Nama-Oorlam men, amongst them Kaptein Joseph Fredericks of Bethanie.

Belck continued such activities in the Walvis Bay area and later, in March 1885, also at Otjitambi near Kamanjab. Here he entered into negotiations, on behalf of the merchant Adolf Lüderitz, with Kaptein Cornelius Swartbooi and his Raad over obtaining land and mining concessions.

Once back in Berlin, his anthropometric data and the three skeletons were "scientifically" discussed amongst physical anthropologists.

In the late 19th century, scientists in all European metropolises had embarked on large-scale 'acquisitions' of human remains from around the world and also from pre-historic European grave sites.

They argued that these 'collections' and the accumulated anthropometric data (including descriptions of skin and eye colour or hair samples) formed a "necessary" basis for identifying "races" – an ideology deeply flawed by racist assumptions and implicated in the formation of a racialised hierarchy and ideology underpinning the colonial project.

### Descendants

The authors came across the names and details of the three deceased men and the grave robbery by Belck in publications of the Berlin institution holding their remains and in documents from various other archives. We believe that their descendants should be traced.

Jacobus Hendrick is reported to have been the son-in-law of Samuel Gertze, himself a well-known Rhenish Mission preacher and personality at the time.

Belck also mentioned Hendrick as having been a former school teacher in Otjimbingwe, and being a member of the 'Zwartbooi tribe'.

Jacobus !Garisib is said to have been a cousin of Jacobus Hendrick and "possibly" also a 'Zwartbooi'.

Oantab is said to have been guarding the stock of Jacobus Hendrick, with no additional information on his background provided.

No additional information on the individual biographies of these men seems to have survived in the archives.

Jacobus Hendrick and his death was still remembered by people living in the lower Kuiseb in the 1960s. For example, in 1969 the Topnaar Voorman Jacobus Stevenson ('Argyll') reported on the death of two 'Hendrik brothers' at #Arexa!nanis, another name, it seems, for IlKharabes. Stevenson also said that a sister of the brothers, Hanna Hendricks, was married to Nicolaas IlKeiseb.

### Contact Us

We hope that the historical biographical information provided here could trigger memories and direct us in tracing any descendants of the men whose remains continue to be part of a scientific collection in Berlin instead of resting, as they previously had, in Namibian soil.

If you have any relevant information on the three men named here, on their descendants such as the daughter of Jacobus Hendrik, or his sister Hanna Hendricks, or with regard to the raid in 1884, or on the local history of IlKharabes or #Arexa!nanis, please share it with us. Your communication will be treated confidentially. You can write to Larissa Förster – larissa.foerster@uni-koeln.de

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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

## NOTICE TO ALL POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Ministry of Health and Social Services hereby informs all potential suppliers that are aspiring to render goods and services (on annual exemption: E1/13-1/2016) to the Ministry (2016 / 2017 Financial Year), to submit at the Regional Offices / Intermediate Hospitals, the following documentations before 13h00 on Friday, 13 May 2016:

Document name / title	
1	<b>Expression of Interest Document</b> (obtainable from the Procurement Office, via e-mail)
2	<b>Company Profile</b> (should have contact details, location and supplier's goods / services)
3	<b>Certified copy of a valid Certificate of Good Standing for Tender Purposes</b> , issued by the Ministry of Finance: Inland Revenue.
4	<b>Certified Copy of a valid Affirmative Action Compliance Certificate</b> (issued in terms of Section 42 of the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act 29 of 1998, as amended; or <b>Letter from the Employment Equity Commission</b> (letter should be on letterhead, stamped and signed by the EEC).
5	<b>Certified copy of Certificate of Good Standing with the Social Security Commission.</b>
6	<b>Certified Copy of the Close Corporation Certificate</b> (issued in terms of Act 26 of 1988) or <b>Founding Statement or any other Company Registration Certificate.</b>
7	<b>Certified copy of a valid Certificate of Registration as an SME</b> , issued by the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development (if applicable).
8	<b>Original Letter from the bank confirming bank details</b> (letter should be on letterhead, stamped and signed by the Bank Official).
9	<b>Certified copy of a valid registration document for a Pharmaceutical Distributor Facility</b> , from the Pharmacy Council of Namibia – [applicable to suppliers seeking to supply Pharmaceutical Products to the Central Medical Stores (CMS)].
10	<b>Certified copy of a valid import permit, from the Namibian Medicines Regulatory Council (NMRC)</b> – [applicable to suppliers seeking to supply Pharmaceutical Products to the CMS].

### Good / services that are on annual exemption are as follows:

1. Development and Strengthening of Network Infrastructure
2. Maintenance and Minor Capital Works
3. Materials and Supplies (including Clinical Supplies)
4. Medical and Operational Equipment
5. Office Furniture and Office Equipment
6. Other Services and Expenses
7. Pharmaceuticals
8. Property Rental
9. Transport and Vehicles repairs & maintenance
10. Utilities (plumbing, courier services, telephone & fax services, etc.)

Kindly take note that, the companies that are expected to submit are those that have the above-mentioned goods/services, listed on their founding statements/company registration document. Each supplier is required to indicate the goods/services (maximum 3) that they would like to be listed for.

Suppliers that already submitted at the Head Office (Windhoek) in March 2016 and have received confirmation SMSes, do not need to re-submit; as they're already pre-qualified and registered. If you haven't received a confirmation SMS, please enquire from the Head Office.

Requirements and detailed information is outlined in the Expression of Interest Document and Instructions to the Potential Suppliers, which is obtainable from the Procurement Office, via e-mail: Tutu.Nathanael@mhss.gov.na or Ndapandula.Kashiyukile@mhss.gov.na.

Suppliers are expected to complete them and submit them together, in a sealed envelope, clearly marked: **Regional Supplier Registration (E1/13-1/2016)** and should be deposited on the Procurement Box, at the Regional Office in the Region where the supplier aspires to deliver goods / services. Each supplier should record and sign in, their submission.

**Dr. Andreas Mwoombola**  
PERMANENT SECRETARY