



Embassy of the Republic of Namibia

Berlin-Federal Republic of Germany

Press Release #1982020

Regarding a social media campaign of the past week circulating without explanation the vandalized billboard poster pictures of President Geingob as if it was the intent of the German artist and the City of Frankfurt to demean our President

In an interview with the NBC Good Morning Namibia (GMN) television programme of the 20th August 2020, His Excellency Andreas Guibeb, the Ambassador of Namibia to the Federal Republic of Germany deplored the regrettable misrepresentation in social media during the past week about “German media outlets displaying demeaning posters of the Namibian President on billboards in the Frankfurt am Main area”.

It is context of what actually transpired that allows one to understand the pictures being circulated and wrongly characterized as demeaning and defaming our President.

The background.

The City of Frankfurt am Main Cultural Department sponsors local artists to have their work known by the general public through a temporary art exhibition campaign. Called temporary art exhibition in public spaces, as posters of the work of artists are posted on Billboards and Advertising Walls around the city during the month of August and September, which the summer holiday months when there is low demand for advertising space as people are on holidays.

Cornelia Franziska Charlotte Heier, the German portrait artists living in Frankfurt, Germany is one of the artists producing content for the City of Frankfurt temporary art since the last 7 years. She produces highly reduced, graphic, black and white portrait drawings of “known persons”, “unknown persons” and “invented persons”. ... (<https://www.kunstheier.de/signalement/>)

Neither the artists nor the City of Frankfurt know where each artwork is displayed as the Advertising Space Management company randomly decides where any of the supplied posters are to be displayed. The City like the artists only learn through responses, like in this case, how the campaign and the work is perceived by the general public.

In her Signalemente 2020 "Quiproquo" (misinterpretation/misunderstanding) collection, the artist Cornelia Heier, included in her highly reduced, graphic, black and white portrait drawings, inter alia portraits of Xi Jinping, Martin Luther King, Hage Geingob, Margaret Thatcher, Mahatma Ghandi, Elizabeth Taylor, and Jean Paul Belmondo etc.

Vandalism of the Poster of the President

It is unclear, as to who the culprit is, who with criminal intent vandalized the portrait poster of our President and inscribed untrue demeaning text on it after it was erected on an Advertising Wall at an underground station in Frankfurt.

What we know is that a picture of the vandalized poster in an underground station in Frankfurt made its appearance on the “Local is Lekker” Facebook page of Yvonne von Holtz, the owner of Magic Destination, a Namibian tourism agency.

It was thereafter shared by 106 others on Facebook and started thereafter on other social media.

Actions by the Embassy of Namibia in Germany

Upon learning about the misleading social media story in this regard, the Embassy reported the vandalism on the poster displayed within the Frankfurt City Temporary Art Campaign to:

1. The City of Frankfurt am Main with the request to replace the vandalized poster with a copy of the original.
2. The artist Cornelia Heier with the request to supply the City of Frankfurt and the Advertising Space Management Company with a duplicate of the original poster so that it can be used to replace the vandalized poster,
3. Facebook to draw its attention to the publication of a picture of the vandalized poster on the Local is Lekker Facebook page of Yvonne von Holtz, without explaining that this is a picture of the vandalized poster and not the original. Also requested that Facebook flag and remove the picture published without explanation and contrary to the intent of the artist and City of Frankfurt

The Embassy, the Artist and the City of Frankfurt deplore...

The Embassy as well as the artist and the City of Frankfurt deplore the senseless vandalism by someone who did so with the criminal political intent to accuse in that manner the President of Namibia of unfounded wrongdoings in order to lower his image and high standing in Germany.

We equally regret that any and all should take and distribute pictures about the criminal’s vandalism without explaining that it is hooliganism based on lies.

The Ambassador thanks ...

The Ambassador thanks Cornelia Heier, the artist, Dr. Snejanka Bauer from the City of Frankfurt Cultural Division as well as the Advertising Space Management Company for their kind cooperation in tracing down the exact location of the vandalized poster and replacing it with an original copy.

For inquiries contact:

H.E. Andreas Guibeb, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia in Germany

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The original Poster signed by the artist



Profaned and Vandalized Poster where the coward criminal vandalizer lacked the courage to put his or her name to own up to the political motivation of their act.



Yvonne Von Holtz
August 14 · 🌐

An einer Litfaßsäule in Deutschland 🇩🇪

Die Welt trauert mit um Namibia 🇳🇦

Carmen Louw, Claudia Haenisch, Katja Ahrens and 21 others like this.

170 Shares · 5 Comments

Ernst Kohne Maar hulle gee nogsteeds geld verstaan nie die konsep nie
4d

↳ **Ernst Kohne** replied · 5 Replies

Glaudi Coleman Andrew Cooper
4d

Glaudi Coleman Anett Koetting
4d

Takmar Markat Fok ek verstaan nie... hier die Lock Down is vir n DOEL ek se julle....
3d

Kerstin Jansen In Frankfurt Bornheim 🇩🇪
3d