

I Charlotte Zeraua , was honored to be a part of the documentary that explored the complex history between Germany and Namibia, particularly focusing on the aftermath of colonialism and the role of missionaries. The film was titled "Deutsche Schuld - Namibia und der Völkermord"

As a Namibian with a family connection to August Kuhlmann and the Zeraua family, I eagerly participated, hoping to shed light on our unique perspective. However, I was deeply disappointed by the final product. Much of the vital footage and narratives that were essential to our family's story were omitted, and the documentary took an unrelated direction for its own benefit.

My involvement in this project began when

I was contacted by Silvia Palmigiano who was responsible for the documentary. Silvia initially reached out to me via social media, and after a few weeks of conversation, we exchanged contact information and had a call on WhatsApp.

During our conversation, I inquired about how she had found me on social media, and she mentioned that my name was listed in the paperwork she received from the Eikon Film Company, the organization responsible for the project. She explained that the information was collected by someone who was previously involved in this project, and my name was among the contacts provided. It later became clear that the person she was referring to was someone I had been in contact with before, regarding a similar project.

Based on the information provided and the way Silvia Palmigiano presented the project with title "Namibia - what has hurt you, How can you heal" , I agreed to be part of the documentary, hoping to contribute to a meaningful exploration of our history. However, as I previously detailed, i was disappointed by the final product and the direction it took, and I felt that our story was manipulated for the benefit of the filmmakers rather than being genuinely told.

What's even more disheartening is the use of unsuspecting individuals on the streets of Namibia who were featured in the documentary without fair compensation or a proper understanding of the project. I felt betrayed and silenced, as I was afraid to voice my concerns due to the financial assistance provided for my flight ticket.

It's crucial that documentaries genuinely honor the subjects and the narratives they seek to explore.

In light of these concerns, I would like to express my desire for the documentary to be removed from NDR and any other platforms . It's crucial that documentaries genuinely honor the subjects and narratives they seek to explore and maintain integrity and respect for those involved, ensuring that their voices and stories are accurately and ethically represented. My experience serves as a stark reminder of the importance of preserving the authenticity and dignity of the individuals and communities featured in such projects.

Sincerely

Charlotte Zeraua

