

Laura Horelli

IN THE UNDERGROUND, BEHIND THE CAR RETAILER AND IN THE SUBURB

The South West Africa People's Organization's English-language journal *Namibia Today* was printed in former East Germany between 1980 and 1985. Its editorial board was based in exile in Luanda, Angola.

The public artwork *Namibia Today*, consisting of 18 billboards at the Schillingstraße underground station in Berlin, part of nGbK's *Art in the Underground* program, became a starting point for an ongoing project on the history and current situation of the newspaper. In May 2017 I travelled to Windhoek to find out more about the magazine from a Namibian perspective. I was able to contact some of the people I had come across in the archival material used in the billboards. The contribution below presents a selection of sound recordings made in Windhoek – more precisely those with Peter Katjavivi, Tsoombe Ndadi and Tarah Shinavene. Interviews are often transcribed and if one works with film, bits of text are arranged within a script to decide what functions best dramaturgically. I arranged the transcriptions on some walls to imitate this working method.

Through the interviews I learned about the many entanglements between Namibia, East Germany and the Nordic countries. The training of Namibian printers in Elverum, Norway to set up a self-sustained printing house in Lusaka, Zambia, was probably one of the reasons leading to termination of the publishing of *Namibia Today* in the GDR. Several of the Namibians I met in Windhoek had studied at the International Institute of Journalism Werner Lambertz in Berlin-Friedrichshagen. The school closed after the collapse of the GDR, but continued some of its work as the association IIJB e.V. It existed until earlier this year, located in Hoppegarten behind several car retailers.

S-Bahn Birkenstein, on the way to IIJB e.V.



SWAPO delegation visits GDR Solidarity Committee in Berlin, mid-1970s
with Iyambo Indongo, Götz R. Richter, Aaron Mushimba, Kurt Krüger, Peter Katjavivi, John Ya Otto



A refugee settlement



"The Namibia House" in Elverum, Norway,
housing the Namibia Association in Norway



Photo: unknown

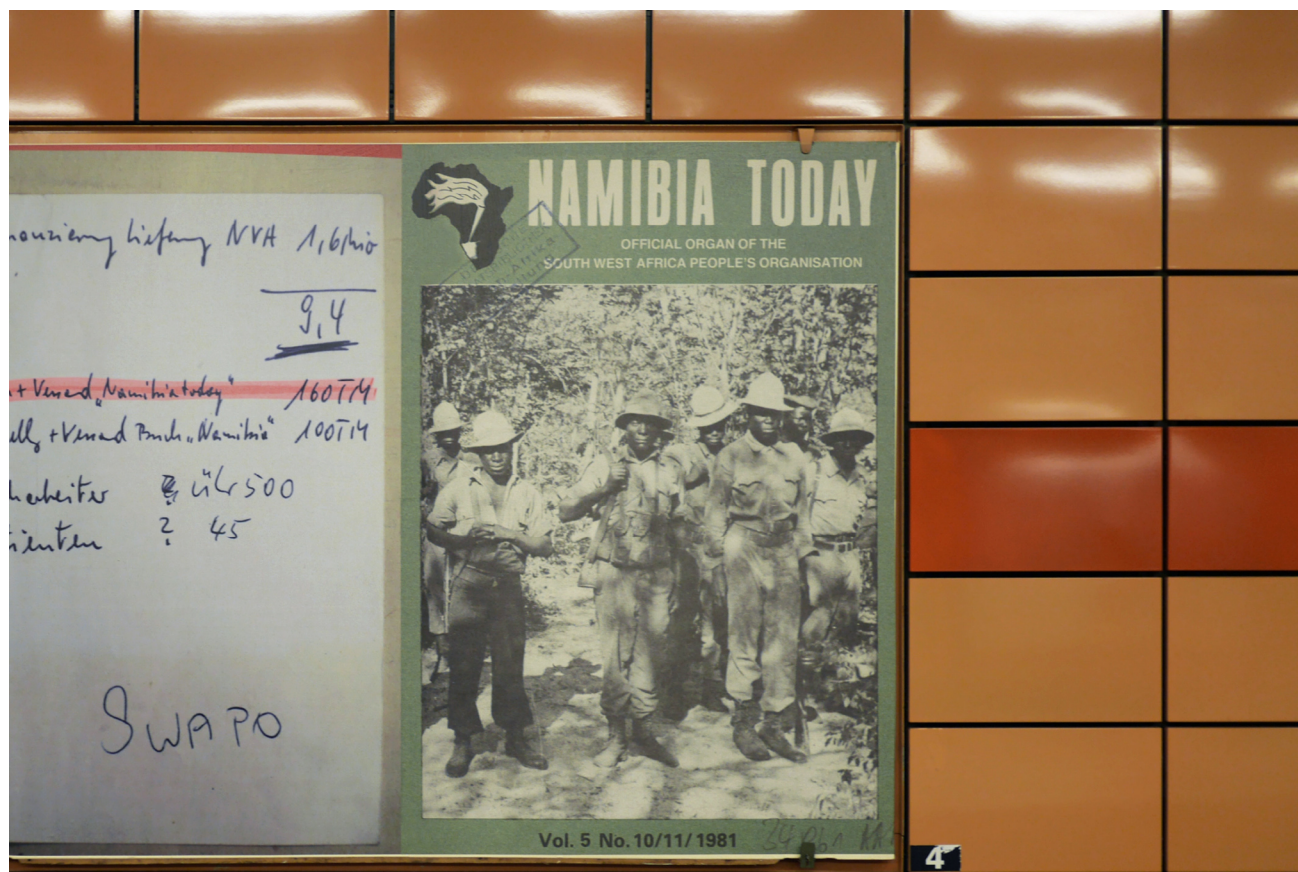


Printing press, Lusaka, Tsoombe Ndadi and others



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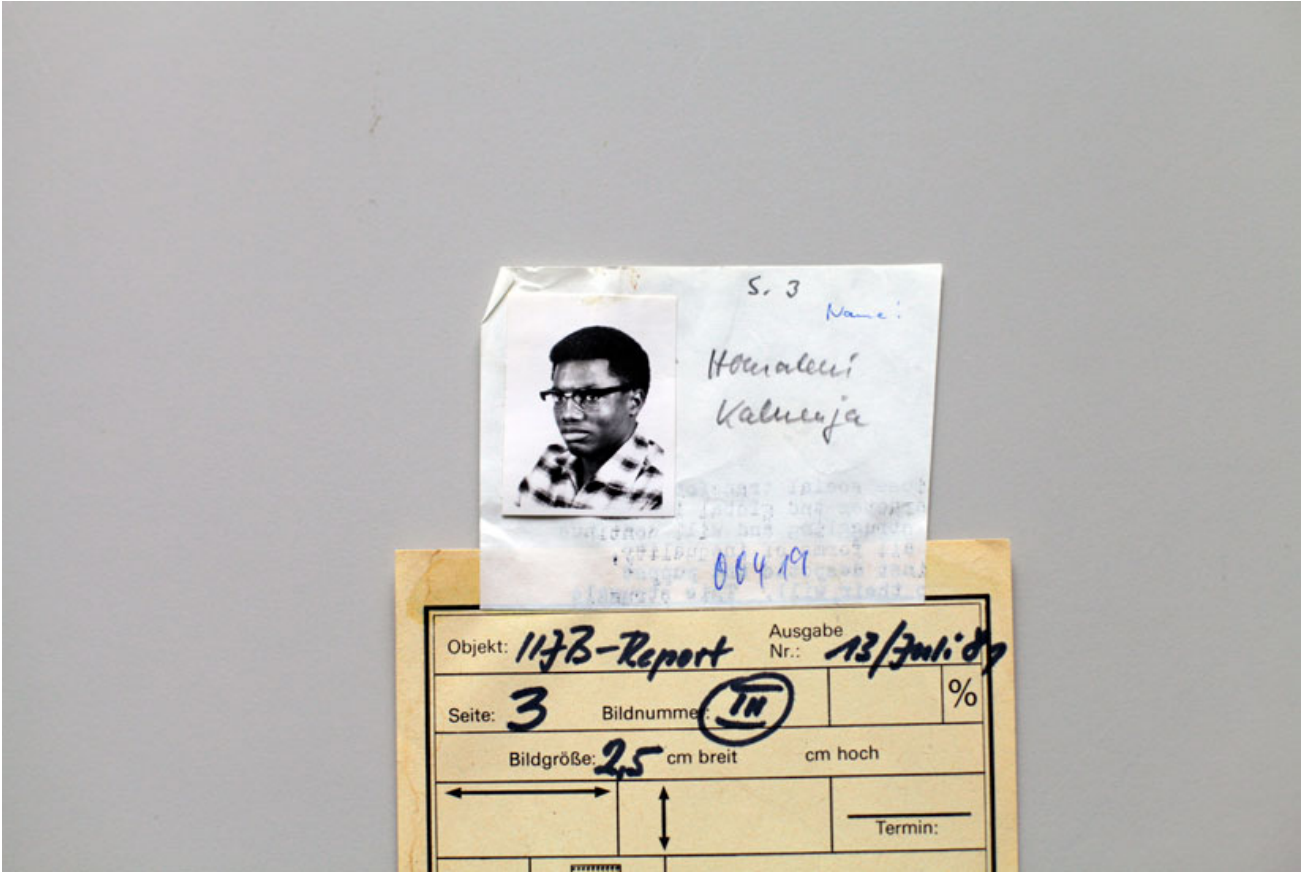
Namibia Today, Vol. 5 No. 10/11/1981



Opening of the SWAPO Office in Berlin-Pankow, 13.10.1978
with Kurt Seibt, Sam Nujoma, Obed Emvula, Egon Winkelmann, Kapuka Nauyala



Homateni Kaluenja





The International Institute of Journalism Berlin Werner Lambertz, Berlin-Friedrichshagen