

Tuesday 8 October 2019

To the rectors of KULeuven, UAntwerpen, VUB and the director of Artevelde hogeschool Gent, respectively Luc Sels, Herman Vangoethem, Sicco Wittermans and Tomas Legrand.

We the undersigned, scholars, scientists, researchers, journalists and historians are writing to you today to express our grave concern at the platform your respective universities have given to a known denier of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi of Rwanda and that no opportunity was provided to challenge such views. Judi Rever is the author of a book, *In Praise of Blood* (Penguin Random House Canada 2018), that promotes a double genocide theory, an idea spread for many years in the propaganda produced by the génocidaires and their supporters. This theory has no basis in fact. It forms part of a campaign to minimise and distort what happened. While claiming serious journalistic investigative work, Rever relies on a series of unsubstantiated and anonymous witness testimonies and quotes from unauthenticated documents apparently obtained from a "secret unit" at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The author provides not the slightest evidence for her sensationalist accusations whilst ignoring a wealth of testimony and accessible material - the evidence built up over the past 25 years by scholars and journalists.

We are shocked that major European universities have chosen to give a platform to the author of a book that peddles arguments used in a 25-year campaign of denial without providing the kind of debate that this urgent matter requires. The upset your decisions cause the survivors of the genocide of the Tutsi is incalculable. In the circumstances of the Holocaust this would be unthinkable.

By promoting the conspiracy theories of Judi Rever you have given the impression of support for negationism and denial.

We therefore ask you to carefully reconsider your decision.

Signed by:

1. **Guillaume Ancel**, Lieutenant-colonel (R) , operation Turquoise veteran. Writer of 'Rwanda, la fin du silence'. Direct witness of the genocide against Tutsi.
2. **Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau**, historien, directeur d'études à l'EHESS, CESPRIA
3. **Dr. Philippe Basabose**, Associate professor (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada)
4. **Dr. Richard M. Benda**, Tutor & Research Fellow, Luther King House Open College
5. **Emmanuel Cattier**, Commission d'enquête citoyenne <http://cec.rwanda.free.fr/>
6. **Bruce Clarke**, Visual artist, author of memorial works in Rwanda
7. **General Roméo Dallaire**, Force Commander, UNAMIR
8. **Alain David**, Philosophe, ancien directeur de programme au Collège international de philosophie. Bureau national de la Licra
9. **Patrick de Saint-Exupéry**, Author and journalist
10. **Alain Destexhe**, Sénateur honoraire et Initiateur de la Commission Rwanda
11. **Boubacar Boris Diop**, Professor at the American University of Nigeria in Yola. Author of "Murambi, the book of bones"
12. **Dr. Phillip Drew, CD**, Associate Professor at Australian National University College of Law, Force Intelligence Officer UNAMIR
13. **Hélène Dumas**, historian, (CNRS, France)
14. **Jean-François Dupaquier**, Journalist, writer
15. **Dr. Philibert Gakwenzire**, Docteur en Histoire

16. **Dr. Jean-Damascène Gasanabo**, Director General, Research and Documentation Center on Genocide, CNLG
17. **Dr. Marie-Christine Gasingirwa**, Analyst for the Higher Education Council of Rwanda
18. **Alain Gauthier**, président du CPR en France, Collectif des Parties Civiles pour le Rwanda
19. **Dr. Catherine Gilbert**, Research Fellow, Ghent University. Author of From Surviving to Living: Voice, Trauma and Witness in Rwandan Women's Writing.
20. **Richard Gisagara**, Avocat, Membre de la Communauté Rwandaise de France, auteur de l'action judiciaire ayant abouti à la pénalisation en France de la négation du génocide commis contre les tutsi
21. **Aymeric Givord**, Member of the association Ibuka France
22. **Bruno Gouteux**, Publisher, Izuba édition & La Nuit Rwandaise
23. **François Graner**, researcher, member of Survie association, author of "Le sabre et la machette - officiers français et génocide tutsi"
24. **Peter Greaves**, Former UNICEF staff member
25. **Yann Gwet**, Journalist and Author
26. **Dr. Helen Hintjens**, Assistant Professor in Development and Social Justice, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) The Hague
27. **Prof. Nicki Hitchcott**, University of St Andrews
28. **Grégoire Jakhian**, Avocat
29. **Richard G. Johnson**, U.S. Foreign Service Officer, retired
30. **Marcel Kabanda**, Historien, co-auteurs d'ouvrages, "Rwanda, médias du génocide" et "Rwanda, racisme et génocide", Expert du TPIR dans le procès des médias
31. **Aurélia Kalisky**, Researcher at the Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Berlin
32. **Prof. Jean-Marie Vianney Kayishema**, Professor of Drama and Literature, University of Rwanda. Playwright and member of the Rwanda Academy of Language and Culture.
33. **Joël Kotek**, Professeur à l'ULB, spécialiste des génocides
34. **Dr. Charles Kabwete Mulinda**, Department of History and Heritage Studies, University of Rwanda
35. **Koulsy Lamko**, Chadian writer living in Mexico, author of "La Phalène des collines"
36. **Jean-Pierre Martin**, Journaliste/Grand-reporter
37. **Linda Melvern**, Linda Melvern, British Investigative journalist. Author: A People Betrayed and Conspiracy to Murder
38. **Roland Moerland**, Assistant professor in Supranational and Organizational Criminology, Department of Criminal Law and Criminology Maastricht University, The Netherlands
39. **Dr. Allan Moore**, Programme Leader - Criminal Justice, University of the West of Scotland. Member of the International Association of Genocide Scholars.
40. **Charles Mulinda Kabwete**, PhD, Associate Professor at the University of Rwanda, Department of History and Heritage Studies
41. **Dr. Emmanuel Nsengiyumva**, Principal (Rector) Indangaburezi College of Education Ruhango
42. **Dr. Eugène Nshimiyimana**, Associate professor, McMaster University, Canada
43. **Christine Priotto**, Maire de la ville de Dieulefi
44. **François Robinet**, Historien - Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin / Paris-Saclay
45. **Anna C. Roosevelt**, Professor of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago.
46. **Jean-Marie Vianney Rurangwa**, Writer, dramatist and poet, PhD candidate in sociology, University of Ottawa, Canada
47. **David Russel**, UK Coordinator, Survivors Fund (SURF)
48. **Dr. Olivia U. Rutazibwa**, Senior lecturer, University of Portsmouth
49. **Jonathan Salt**, Managing Director of Ojemba Education
50. **Prof. Jean-Philippe Schreiber**, Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Directeur de recherches du FNRS, Centre interdisciplinaire d'Etude des Religions et de la Laïcité (CIERL)
51. **Prof. Josias Semujanga**, Professor of African literature and literary theories at the University of Montreal (Canada). His publications include Narrating Itsembabwoko. When literature becomes Testimony of Genocide (2019), Origins of the Rwandan Genocide (2003), and Récits fondateurs du

drame rwandais (1998).

52. **Dr. Serigne Seye**, Maître de conférence assimilé à l'université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
53. **David J. Simon**, Director, Genocide Studies Program, Yale University
54. **Yves Ternon**, Historien
55. **Laetitia Tran Ngoc**, Chercheuse indépendante
56. **Prof. Aimable Twagilimana**, Buffalo State, New York, USA
57. **Dr. Emeline Uwizeyimana**, Chercheuse à l'ULB
58. **Jos van Oijen**, Researcher
59. **Dr. Julia Viebach**, Departmental Lecturer | African Studies Centre | School of Global and Area Studies | University of Oxford
60. **Collectif belge pour la prévention des crimes de génocide et contre les négationnismes - Belgisch Collectief ter preventie (of voorkoming) van genocide en tegen het negationisme.**

*Association des Arméniens démocrates de Belgique:*

- ◆ Centre Communautaire Laïc Juif David Susskind
- ◆ Centre pour la Prévention des Crimes contre l'Humanité
- ◆ Comité des Arméniens de Belgique
- ◆ Fédération Assyrienne de Belgique
- ◆ Fédération des Araméens de Belgique
- ◆ Groupe de Soutien aux Parties Civiles (Belgique)
- ◆ Izuba
- ◆ Ibuka Mémoire & Justice

*Association associée aux campagnes du Collectif :*

- ◆ Comité de Coordination des Organisations Juives de Belgique (CCOJB)