

Monday 7 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: