

Open letter against giving Judi Rever a platform at the University of Cambridge

Linda Melvern, Catherine Gilbert, Jean-François Cahay

April 2021

To : The Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Toope, University of Cambridge

We the undersigned scholars, scientists, researchers, journalists, historians and charitable organisations are writing to you today to express our grave concern at the platform your university is giving to a known denier of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and that no opportunity is being provided to challenge such views.

Judi Rever, who is scheduled to speak at the University of Cambridge Centre for Geopolitics on 21 April 2021, is a journalist and author of the book *In Praise of Blood* that promotes the ‘double genocide’ myth, an idea introduced and spread by the genocide perpetrators and their supporters during the horrific events of 1994 and in the 27 years since.

This double genocide myth has been shown by countless reports, scholars, journalists, court proceedings and visual evidence to have absolutely no basis in fact. It forms part of a mounting campaign to minimise and distort the historical truth. While claiming to be serious journalistic investigative work, Rever relies on unsubstantiated and anonymous witness testimonies and quotes from unauthenticated documents apparently obtained from a ‘secret unit’ at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Her work is in no way peer reviewed and she provides not the slightest evidence for her sensationalist accusations whilst ignoring a wealth of testimony and accessible material – the concrete evidence built up over the past 27 years by scholars and journalists, NGOs and witnesses that has been tested in courtrooms and in solid academic debate and publications.

We are shocked that the University of Cambridge has chosen to give a

platform to the author of a book that peddles arguments used in a 27-year campaign of genocide denial and revision.

The University of Cambridge Centre for Geopolitics – with no African, let alone Rwandan member on its 50 strong staff, Management Committee and International Advisory Board – has shown a reckless disregard for upholding factual historical accuracy and debate. African issues and lives are being treated with a flagrant disregard by the University of Cambridge that promotes itself as a global leader in truth and honesty.

The upset your decision causes the survivors of the genocide of the Tutsi, some of whom are studying at the University, 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 kindly ask you urgently now to reconsider your decision to give a platform to Rever and her views.

Signed :

Guillaume Ancel, Lieutenant-Colonel (R), Operation Turquoise veteran. Writer of “Rwanda, la fin du silence”. Direct witness of the genocide against the Tutsi

Dr. Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau, Historian, Director of Studies, EHESS, Paris Medhi Ba, Journalist and author

Gatsinzi Basaninyenzi, Associate Professor of English, Alabama A-M University

Prof. Annette Becker, Professor of History, Paris-Nanterre. Author of *Messengers of Disaster : Raphael Lemkin, Jan Karski, and Twentieth-Century Genocides* (Wisconsin University Press, 2021)

Dr. Richard M. Benda, Luther King House, Durham University

Dr. Romain Bertrand, Director of Studies, CERI (Sciences Po-CNRS)

Jacqueline Blam Mukandanga, Ibuka Germany Chairperson

Juliette Bour, Ph.D. candidate in History (EHESS, CESPRA, Paris)

Dr. Carole Bourne-Taylor, Fellow in French, Brasenose College, Oxford

Prof. Raphaëlle Branche, Professor of Contemporary History, Institut des Sciences Sociales du Politique, Université de Paris Nanterre

Timothée Brunet-Lefèvre, Ph.D. candidate at CESPRA (EHESS, Paris)

Jabo Butera, Chairperson of the national association of Rwandese communities in the UK

Cloé Carbonare, Art Teacher

Prof. Marguerite Carbonare, Professor of letters, retired

Dr. Ayse Sila Cehreli, Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences,
Marmara University

Prof. Jean-Pierre Chrétien, Emeritus Director of Research, CNRS

Dr. Piotr Cieplak, Senior lecturer, University of Sussex

Prof. Phil Clark, Professor of International Politics, SOAS University of
London

Bruce Clarke, Visual artist. Author of The Garden of Memory and the
Upright Men contemporary arts memorial works. Member of the advisory
board of CPRC (Collectif des Parties civiles pour le Rwanda)

Marie-France Collard, Filmmaker, co-author of « Rwanda 94 » theatre
play

Prof. Denis Crouzet, Professor in modern history, Faculté des Lettres
Sorbonne Université

Parand Danesh, Ph.D. candidate in Political Science, School for Advanced
Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS, Paris)

Patrick de Saint-Exupéry, Author and journalist

Jacques Delcuvellerie, Artistic director of collectif Groupov, co-author of
« Rwanda 94 » theatre play

Bernadette Denis, Former Nursing Director at Washington Hospital Cen-
ter

Senator Alain Destexhe, Former Secretary-General Médecins Sans Fron-
tières

Dr. Hélène Dumas, Historian, CNRS, EHESS

Jean-François Dupaquier, Author, journalist, expert witness at the Inter-
national Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in the Media Case

Dr. Aleksander Edelman, Director of studies, CNRS

Théo Englebert, Journalist

Prof. François-Xavier Fauvelle, Professor of African History, Collège de
France, Paris

Prof. Victoria Fontan, Vice President of Academic Affairs, American Uni-
versity of Afghanistan

Dr. Karen B. Froming, ABPP, University of California

Nadia Gallinier, Lawyer

Dr. Ignace Gatware, Principal, College of Science and Technology, Univer-
sity of Rwanda

Prof. Tharcisse Gatwa, Author and research professor of ethnics

Alain Gauthier, President of the CPRC (Collectif des Parties Civiles pour
le Rwanda), France

The Foundation for Genocide Education, Montreal, Canada. <https://gened.org>

Dr. Catherine Gilbert, Academic Track Fellow, Newcastle University. Author of *From Surviving to Living : Voice, Trauma and Witness in Rwandan Women's Writing* (2018)

Richard Gisagara, Court lawyer (France – Rwanda)

Ramadan Gjanaj, Political scientist and Chairman of the National Albanian European Council

Dr. Cécile Gonçalves, Lecturer, Institut catholique de Paris

Bruno Gouteux, Journalist and publisher, Izuba édition and La Nuit Rwandaise

François Graner, Researcher, member of “Survie”, author

Prof. Jan T. Gross, Professor of History Emeritus, Princeton University

Prof. Fred Grünfeld, Emeritus Professor in International Relations, Human Rights and the Causes of Gross Human Rights Violations, Universities of Maastricht and Utrecht, Netherlands. Author of *The Failure to Prevent Genocide in Rwanda : The Role of Bystanders* (2007)

Dr. Deogratias Harorimana, Senior Fellow, USP, Executive Chairman – AIPF Group

Jason Havuga Nshimye, Ibuka USA Chairperson

Dr. Emmanuel Havugimana, Senator, Rwanda

Dr. Helen Hintjens, Assistant Professor in Development and Social Justice, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) The Hague. Relevant publication with Jos van Oijen (2020) “Elementary forms of Collective Denial : The 1994 Rwanda Genocide” *Genocide Studies International*, 13(2) : 146-167.

Prof. Nicki Hitchcott, Professor, University of St Andrews

Dr. Jim House, Associate professor, University of Leeds

Grégoire Jakhian, Lawyer

Mr. Pierre Jamagne, Former development worker in Rwanda (1991-1994)

Elżbieta Janicka, Institute of Slavic Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences (ISS PAS), Warsaw (Poland)

Richard Garon Johnson, U.S. Foreign Service Officer, retired

Amdani Juma, Director, African Institute for Social Development (AISD)

Sebastian Jung, Teacher of History and Geography

Dr. Charles Kabwete Mulinda, Associate Professor at the University of Rwanda, Department of History and Heritage Studies

Dr. Aurélia Kalisky, Researcher at the Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Berlin

- Emmanuel Kamaza, Public Policy Consultant, Kigali, Rwanda
- Oscar Karangwa, Former Cambridge student
- Dr. Jean-Pierre Karegeye, Department of Philosophy, Dickinson College
- Aimable Karirima Ngarambe, Journalist
- Prof. Zachary D. Kaufman, Associate Professor of Law and Political Science, University of Houston Law Center
- Dr. Jean Kayitsinga, Assistant Professor, Julian Samora Research Institute, Michigan State University
- Dr. Jean-Paul Kimonyo, Researcher and author
- Prof. Joël Kotek, Professeur at the Free University of Brussels (ULB) and the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po)
- Lyn Kouadio, Philomathia Africa Scholar, University of Cambridge
- Samuel Kuhn, Teacher of History and Geography
- Dr. Anouche Kunth, Historian, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)
- Amon Kwesiga, Institution licensing and accreditation, Rwanda Higher Education Council (HEC)
- Dr. Julie Le Gac, Senior Lecturer in Modern History, University of Paris Nanterre, Institut Universitaire de France
- Maria Malagardis, Journalist
- Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust
- Jean-Pierre Martin, Journalist and special correspondent
- Prof. François Masabo, Centre for Conflict Management, University of Rwanda
- Déo Mazina, Chairman of Réseaux International Recherche and Génocide (RESIRG)
- Dr. Consolée Mbarushimana, Senior Lecturer in CyberSecurity, University of Wolverhampton
- Linda Melvern, British investigative journalist. Author of *Intent to Deceive Denying the Genocide of the Tutsi* (Verso 2020)
- Dr. Roland Moerland, Assistant Professor of Criminology, Maastricht University
- Dr. Allan T. Moore, Lecturer in Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of the West of Scotland. Member of the International Association of Genocide Scholars
- Jacques Morel, Author of “La France au coeur du génocide des Tutsi”
- Dr. Ève Morisi, Associate Professor of French, University of Oxford

Dr. Claire Mouradian, Emeritus Director of Research, CNRS, Paris
 Louisa Esther Mugabo, Journalist
 Honorine Mujiyambere, Ibuka Italy Chairperson
 Dafroza Mukarumongi-Gauthier, CPRC-France
 Dr. Jean François Munyakayanza, Historian, Senior Lecturer, University
 of Rwanda
 Revd Dr. Malachie Munyaneza
 Alice Musabende, Gates Scholar, University of Cambridge
 Freddy Mutanguha, Executive Director, Aegis Trust
 Anais Mutumba, Freelance journalist
 Yael Navaro, Reader in Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge
 Felix Ndahinda, Researcher and Consultant
 Tom Ndahiro, Genocide scholar
 Prof. Juvenal Ndayiragije, Chair, Department of Language Studies, UTSC,
 University of Toronto
 Prof. Pap Ndiaye, Sciences Po, Paris
 Dr. Eric Ns. Ndushabandi, Director of the Institute of Research and Dia-
 logue for Peace. Professor of Political Science, University of Rwanda
 Dr. Alexander Ngenzi, Academician and a researcher at University of
 Rwanda
 Raphaël Nkaka, Senior Lecturer, Deputy Dean, School of Governance,
 College of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Rwanda
 Egide Nkuranga, Ibuka-Rwanda Chairperson
 Dr. Zoe Norridge, Senior Lecturer in African and Comparative Literature,
 King's College London
 Etienne Nsanzimana, Ibuka-France Chairperson
 Dr. Vincent Ntaganira, Public Servant and visiting lecturer at the Uni-
 versity of Rwanda
 Dr. S. Vahni P. Capildeo, FRSL, University of York
 Séta Papazian, President of Collectif VAN [Vigilance Arménienne contre
 le Négationnisme]
 Dr. Nicolas Patin, Lecturer in contemporary history, Université Bordeaux
 Montaigne
 Dr. Kirrily Pells, UCL
 Charles Petrie, Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations
 and Deputy UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Rwanda during the period of
 the Genocide
 Dr. Manon Pignot, Historian, Lecturer (HDR) in Contemporary History,
 Université Picardie Jules Verne

Dr. Florent Piton, Université de Paris, CESSMA
 Romain Poncet, Ibuka-France Executive Board
 Florence Prudhomme, Author, Founder of NGO Rwanda avenir
 Rudy Reichstadt, Director of Conspiracy Watch
 Dr. François Robinet, Lecturer, Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin /
 Paris-Saclay
 Prof. Anna C. Roosevelt, Professor of Anthropology, University of Illinois
 at Chicago
 Dr. Augustin Rudacogora, University of Rwanda
 David Russel, UK Coordinator, Survivors Fund (SURF)
 Christine Safari, Ibuka Netherlands Chairperson
 Dr. Emmanuel Saint-Fuscien, MCF EHESS, Paris
 Jonathan Salt, Managing Director of Ojemba Education
 Prof. Jean-Philippe Schreiber, Professor at the Free University of Brussels
 (ULB)
 Prof. Josias Semujanga, Professor of African literature and literary theo-
 ries at the University of Montreal (Cana. His publications include *Narra-
 ting Itsembabwoko. When literature becomes Testimony of Genocide* (2019),
Origins of the Rwandan Genocide (2003), and *Récits fondateurs du drame
 rwandais* (1998)
 Dr. Serigne Seye, CAMES Assistant Professor, Cheikh Anta Diop Uni-
 versity of Dakar, Senegal
 Hilda Shema Kamali, Rwanda Women Representative- RCA -NL
 Dr. John Shofel Ruzibuka, senior lecturer economics, Leeds Beckett Uni-
 versity Business School
 Dr. James Smith, President of the UK National Holocaust Centre
 Aloys Tegera, Historian, Senior Researcher at Pole Institute based in
 Goma, DRC
 Dr. Yves Ternon, Historian
 Dr. Sylvie Thénault, Director of studies, CNRS
 Rebecca Tinsley, Journalist and author
 Xavier Truti, Executive Project Manager, member of Citizen Culture
 Prof. Aimable Twagilimana, SUNY Buffalo State, New York, USA
 Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse, Author
 Sandrine Umutoni, Director General of Imbuto Foundation
 Dr. Alice Urusaro Karekezi, Researcher Fellow, University of Rwanda
 Dr. Alain Verhaagen, Senior lecturer, Université libre de Bruxelles

Dr. Clémentine Vidal-Naquet, Lecturer in Contemporary History, Université Picardie Jules Verne

Dr. Alice von Bieberstein, Humboldt University of Berlin

Dr. Andrew Wallis, Author and journalist

Dr. Caroline Williamson Sinalo, University College Cork

More signatures on their way...