



April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Open letter

From: **Survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda**

To: **Professor Stephen J. Toope, Vice Chancellor, University of Cambridge**

RE: **April 21 Event for Genocide Denier Judi Rever at the Centre for Geopolitics, University of Cambridge.**

It is with incredulity and immense sadness that we, survivors of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994, find that the University of Cambridge is preparing to welcome and give a platform to a journalist who has actively promoted the myth of '**double genocide**'.

Her sensationalist conspiracy and revisionist theories, which are reliant almost entirely on anonymous or 'secret' sources, are refuted by 27 years of international fact-finding reports, UN-led accounts, trials, witnesses, NGOs and journalists. 27 years ago this year and this very month, our loved ones – mothers, fathers, children, aunties and uncles, grandparents and infants and friends - were killed in horrific ways and many among us were also victims of horrific and savage sexual violence. For us survivors then and now, rebuilding our lives torn apart with grief and loss is reliant on the support and understanding of those around us, both in Rwanda and around the world. In 1994, we were abandoned because the international community turned its back on Rwanda and took no steps to stop these atrocities. We, survivors of genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994, are appalled that by extending an invitation to Judi Rever, the University of Cambridge is deliberately turning its back on the pain and trauma we endured then and that such an event will again cause. This from an institution which promotes itself as an institution deeply concerned with a commitment to truth, educational integrity and enriching human lives. We are profoundly saddened by the timing of this event at the Center for Geopolitics. April, the month in which we start the annual commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi, is a time in which we pay tribute to our loved ones, reflect on ways to keep their memory alive and to ensure that genocide never happens again. It is an affront that the University of Cambridge has chosen this time to invite a guest whose sensationalist and inflammatory work has caused much pain to us, the survivors.

An academic platform given to someone whose work is centrally concerned in promoting myths like double genocide, someone who promulgates the reprehensible opinion that Tutsis massacred other Tutsis and in effect were responsible for the genocide themselves, is not just misusing its educational resources to promote falsehoods. In promoting Judi Rever's work and amplifying her voice, the University of Cambridge is re-victimising the victims. Is this what the University of Cambridge is really about? If we were survivors of the Holocaust would we need to write this letter? Or is it that as Rwandan (and African) victims of a horrific crime, our voices, opinions, pain and suffering are too easily dismissed as unimportant?



Far from being about 'freedom of speech', giving Rever a platform is simply enabling her to perpetuate opinions that are both factually errant and morally repugnant. It is wrong to do so by a University which has built a reputation as a global beacon of rigorous, intellectual discussion. Instead, we find an astonishing failure by the University organisers to understand the impact of the conspiracy theories of this journalist; and a university research centre that declares it provides 'historically-grounded solutions' yet is unwilling to countenance the immense damage promoting Rever's views do to survivors, the truth - and to the reputation of the University.

We, survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994, strongly urge the University of Cambridge not to give this platform to the most abhorrent kind of revisionism and conspiracy theories that seek to overturn proven historical facts.

**Signed on this 15 April 2021;**

- **Egide Nkuranga , President, IBUKA Rwanda**
- **Etienne Nsanzimana: President, IBUKA France and Europe**
- **César Murangira: President, IBUKA Switzerland**
- **Félicité Lyamukuru: President, IBUKA Belgium**
- **Christine Safari: President, IBUKA Holland**
- **Honorine Mujoyambere: President, IBUKA Italy**
- **Jacqueline Mukandanga-Blam: President, IBUKA Germany**
- **Jason Havuga Nshimye: Chairperson , IBUKA USA**
- **Egide Gatari: President, GAERG Rwanda**
- **Eric Murangwa Eugène MBE: Founder & CEO, Ishami Foundation, UK**
- **Marie Chantal Muhigana: President, Urukundo Organisation, Norway**
- **Jacqueline Murekatete: Founder & President, Genocide Survivors Foundation, USA**