Dear John J. Theis

As someone who lost many members of his family in the Srebrenica genocide, and as a human rights scholar, I am deeply concerned with your decision to host Dr Michael Parenti as a guest speaker at the Lone Star College Kingwood, Texas.

Dr Parenti, a self-proclaimed “Balkan revisionist” and author of 'To Kill a Nation: The Attack on Yugoslavia', explicitly denies genocide, systematic rape of women and girls and 'ethnic cleansing' committed by Serb military and paramilitary forces in Bosnia during the 1992-95 war. Dr Parenti goes as far as to blame the victims (Bosniaks) for the genocide in Srebrenica and other massacres that took place throughout the 1992-95 war of aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has also publicly disregarded that between 20,000 and 50,000 Bosniak women were raped during the war. As confirmed by the International Court of Justice (ICTY) judicial rulings, the rapes were used as an official Serb policy of 'ethnic cleansing' and as such constitute war crimes.

To this day, his outrageous claims have only been supported and shared by other notorious genocide deniers and the Serb ultranationalists. Dr Parenti’s genocide denial, ‘historical revisionism’ and conspiracy theories are in direct conflict with the official rulings by the ICTY, and numerous resolutions recognising the genocide in Bosnia -- such as those adopted by the United States Congress, the European Parliament and the Parliament of Australia.

While acknowledging the importance of freedom of speech, which Dr Parenti uses as a cover for his lies, I would like to stress that denying genocide and forensically proven facts about the war crimes in Bosnia is unacceptable and deeply traumatic for the survivors and their families as well as damaging to the ongoing peace efforts in post-war Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Hundreds of thousands of Bosniaks who survived 'ethnic cleansing' and the genocide in Bosnia have made the United States, Canada and Australia their second home. Dr Parenti uses his writing and public speaking to purposely hurt those who have survived genocide, and having him attend this event will send the wrong message to all genocide survivors. In addition, it will send a message that San Jose Peace and Justice Center supports Parenti’s genocide denial. Thus hosting Dr Parenti would be highly inappropriate and contrary to the mission of your organisation, which strives to promote peace and justice.

All genocide deniers directly undermine peace and justice; hence, I urge you to stand up for justice and truth and reject any affiliation with Dr Parenti and his damaging work.

Sincerely,

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<http://opvclt.monash.edu/>

Places of Pain: <http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=HalilovichPlaces>