Dear Prof Theis

I am writing from San Jose where I have worked with many anti-war groups as well as Muslim organizations. Nearly any organization that I have been involved with has hosted Parenti at some point. However, as we pointed out to his hosts in May 2012, it was without knowledge of his denial of war crimes against Bosnian Muslims and his endorsement of Milosevic.

Parenti's denial or undermining of war crimes against Muslims in Bosnia includes calling Srebrenica a media hyped story and accusations that Bosniaks hired public relation firms to spread tales of rape into the US media (you can find a YouTube [video here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqEUTL_OmRI) where he mocks at Muslim's claims of rapes in Bosnia - he uses US imperialism as a guise but if you think about it, Bosniaks would have to be the worst perverts in history to fabricate claims of rape camps about their own women). As Madeleine Rees, the president of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) mentioned in her letter requesting his San Jose hosts to cancel the event: *"we should absolutely denounce this! It infuriates me that these people get a public platform. The impact on victims on this is enormous! There is a book by Ed Vuillamy called "the war is dead long live the war", which says it all!"*

I understand any concerns regarding freedom of speech - however, lets not forget that in principle, freedom of speech's fundamental purpose is to protect the weak. If Muslims, war victims and women's rights groups find Parenti objectionable, at the very least hosting him is not a win for freedom of speech besides the irony that a self claimed anti-imperial speaker has no takers in the communities affected by imperial wars. I hope you do reconsider your invitation.

Best Regards
Aamir Qureshi
San Jose