Dear Katherine Persson,

I am concerned that you may be giving Mr. Parenti a forum for his harmful and erroneous views, i.e. that there was no genocide in Srebrenica, and his support of Slobodan Milosevic.

While I strongly support freedom of speech, I wonder if you would feature a Holocaust denier. As with the Holocaust, it is wrong and misleading to promote the concept that there are two legitimate points of view on whether genocide occurred in Srebrenica.

Parenti's position is not honest. It is an abject endorsement of war crimes and war criminals by a mouthpiece for Milosevic. I hope Parenti's position on Milosevic's crimes will cause you, as it has caused me, to question Parenti's broader politics.

People such as Mr. Parenti and others failed to understand the cause of the breakup of Yugoslavia: an extreme nationalist movement, led by Serbian expansionists and then answered by similar nationalists in Croatia. The conflict that tore Yugoslavia apart, displaced at least three million people, and resulted in the deaths of around 100 000 in Bosnia-Herzegovina alone, was not simply a “civil war.” It was, to a large extent, planned by power-hungry demagogues such as Slobodan Milosevic.

No institution of higher education should even consider inviting someone who is so intentionally divisive and intent on destroying the reputation of those who refuse to deny well-documented atrocities.

However more than 350 000 North American Bosniaks, victims of aggression and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, don't buy into this idea of entitlement to free speech involving wilful lies that are implicitly vehicles for antagonism and hatred.

Soon you will be receiving the official response of the organizations for the protection of human rights and freedoms.

Sincerely,

Professor Emir Ramic