

# The Rwandan Genocide

JAN. 21, 2014

## To the Editor:

In “Rwanda’s Shrouded Nightmare” (Op-Ed, Jan. 10), Michael Dobbs questions whether the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi was planned. He casts aspersions on the informant “Jean-Pierre,” who warned Brig. Gen. Roméo Dallaire, the commander of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Rwanda, of the extermination plans months before the genocide began.

Jean-Pierre even took a United Nations military officer to see the cache of weapons stockpiled for the massacres. A result was General Dallaire’s famous Jan. 11, 1994, fax warning to United Nations headquarters, which was ignored.

Mr. Dobbs’s “revelations” are nothing new. Efforts to discredit Jean-Pierre were central to the defense argument at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda that claimed that the killing was spontaneous, not a result of a conspiracy. But there was ample evidence for a genocide conspiracy that did not rely on Jean-Pierre.

Mr. Dobbs doesn’t mention the overwhelming evidence of planning that persuaded the judges of the tribunal to convict defendants of conspiracy to commit genocide.

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London, Jan. 15, 2014

*The writers are, respectively, the author of “Conspiracy to Murder: The Rwandan Genocide” and the president of Genocide Watch. The letter was also signed by nine other academics, authors and international lawyers.*

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