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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **Focus should be on victims of genocide in Rwanda as much as on Perpetrators**

From Ms Mary Kayitesi-Blewitt

Sir, Tom Kennedy (Letters, November 27) denounces my "facile and inappropriate comparison" in highlighting the plight of women survivors of the Rwandan genocide against the cost of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

He is entitled to his view but I beg to differ with his conclusions.

It goes without saying that the ICTR is undertaking valuable work, and has achieved some success. The question I raise is: At what cost? Since it was established, more than Dollars 1bn has been spent on the ICTR. That is an enormous sum in the context of Rwanda's annual national budget of Dollars 400m.

What is right for the perpetrators of Bloody Sunday and Lockerbie need not necessarily be right in Rwanda too. Such comparisons are inapposite, as neither case involves genocide. A better benchmark is the Nuremberg Trials – which lasted four years and convicted 177 persons. All 21 primary defendants were tried in just 10 months. It certainly did not cost then what the ICTR is costing today.

There may be no such thing as "perfect justice", but our appeal is to the international community, and the United Nations in particular, that there is a balance in the apportioning of funds to ensure that there is as much focus on the victims of genocide as on the perpetrators.

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