

PRESS RELEASE | 18 March 2024

BOYCOTT THE GENOCIDE PAVILION

NO VISITORS, NO PRESS, NO PARTIES: Art Not Genocide Alliance (ANGA) escalates its campaign and calls for a boycott of the Israeli Pavilion at the Venice Biennale

ANGA's <u>open letter</u>, which calls for the exclusion of the Israeli Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, has gained almost <u>23,000 signatures</u>.

Supporters include public figures and academics such as Ariella Aïsha Azoulay, Brian Eno, Tariq Ali, and Yanis Varoufakis, as well as **previous and upcoming Biennale participants**, including: Adam Broomberg, Agnes Questionmark, Ahmet Öğüt, Alessandro Petti, Ana Laura Aláez, Ashkan Sepahvand, Banu Cennetoğlu, Bronwyn Katz, Charlie Prodger, Claire Fontaine, Cooking Sections, Daniela Ortiz, Diego Marcon, Dora Garcia, Hildigunnur Birgisdottir, Hit Man Gurung, Jesse Darling, Jota Mombaça, Julieta Aranda, Katja Novitskova, Kemang Wa Lehulere, Ken Loach, Koki Tanaka, Larissa Sansour, Léopold Lambert, Lydia Ourahmane, Marco Scotini, Mark Leckey, Martine Gutierrez, Naeem Mohaiemen, Neil Beloufa, Niamh O'Malley, Nina Katchadourian, P Staff, Pilvi Takala, Quinn Latimer, Sidsel Meineche Hansen, Solange Pessoa, Sophia Al-Maria, Sumitra Upham, Tania Bruguera, Yto Barrada, and Zineb Sidera.

Today, ANGA escalates its campaign:

- ANGA calls for **arts workers to refuse to accept** the presence of official delegations, institutions, or persons tied **in any capacity to the Israeli government** at any events.
- ANGA calls for **the pavilions of other nations** in the Giardini and beyond **to exclude Israel** from their own events.
- ANGA invites artists participating in the Biennale to **make known their recognition of the genocide against Palestinians** in Gaza and their support for ANGA's campaign.

Despite previously <u>excluding South Africa</u> due to its globally condemned apartheid regime, and issuing <u>impassioned public statements</u> in support of Ukraine following Russia's illegal military invasion in 2022, <u>the Biennale has refused</u> ANGA's request to exclude Israel from this year's 60th International Art Exhibition. The <u>Italian Culture Minister</u> says this is because culture is "a bridge between people and nations, not a dividing wall" and that Israel has "a duty to bear witness to its people."

ANGA says culture is not a bridge between people and nations when one nation is involved in the elimination of another, the citizens of which are kept behind a literal prison wall. ANGA bears witness to the more than 31,341 Palestinians killed in Gaza by the Israeli state; the 2.2 million Palestinians internally displaced and starving to death in a famine deliberately imposed by Israel; and

the 75 years of Israel's occupation of Palestine. Every day brings greater<u>global condemnation</u> of Israel, which promises only to<u>intensify</u> its openly genocidal assault. ANGA refuses empty rhetoric and rejects any exceptionalism for the genocidal apartheid state of Israel currently on trial at the highest court in the world.

No visitors, no press, no parties.

BOYCOTT THE GENOCIDE PAVILION AT THE VENICE BIENNALE.

Art Not Genocide Alliance (ANGA)

Contact us by email for further information and interviews: <u>artnotgenocidealliance@proton.me</u>

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Note to editors: ANGA is an international group of artists, curators, writers, and cultural workers who have come together to call for the exclusion of Israel at the Venice Biennale. We invite you to share the ethical and political position expressed in the open letter to the Venice Biennale and to be part of our address. ANGA is a collective with no sole authors. This open letter is authored by all who sign it. We commit to the power of collective action and the principles of shared responsibility. The more of us there are, the more of us there are.