



UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 10AM CET 17 MARCH 2026

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NO GENOCIDE PAVILION AT THE VENICE BIENNALE

178 artists, curators and art workers of the 2026 Venice Biennale demand Israel's exclusion

A [letter](#) calling for the exclusion of Israel from the the 61st International Art Exhibition has been signed by 178 participants and sent to the President and the Board of La Biennale di Venezia.

Israel's 2026 participation has been made possible through special accommodations by the Biennale, with the Israeli pavilion moving to a temporary space in the Arsenale. This decision constitutes an explicit institutional endorsement at a moment of escalating violence.

Including 82 signatories from national pavilions, 55 art workers, and 41 participants in the main exhibition *In Minor Keys*, curated by the late Koyo Kouoh, the letter represents an unprecedented coalition of Biennale participants coming together to assert that an apartheid state committing genocide in Gaza and expanding its occupation in the West Bank should have no place at the world's largest art event.

The letter calls on the Biennale Foundation to cancel Israel's participation in light of its ongoing crimes in Gaza and the longer history of dispossession that began with the Nakba of 1948, when more than 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from their land. Participants refuse to be put in a position of complicity by sharing a major cultural stage with a state that has killed at least 72,000 people in Gaza—with a further 10,000 remaining missing under the rubble—while systematically targeting hospitals, schools, refugee camps, journalists and cultural heritage.

In 2024, ANGA launched a campaign with an open letter that garnered over 24,000 signatures from across the art world, including high-profile cultural figures and the general public. The letter was supported by direct actions and citywide protests across Venice during the opening week, representing one of the cultural sector's largest mobilisations of solidarity with Palestine.

ANGA's campaign led to the partial closure of the Israeli pavilion for the duration of the 60th International Art Exhibition in 2024 and its absence from the 19th International Architecture Exhibition in 2025.

The urgency of the demands made by this year's Biennale participants has only increased over the past two weeks, following US and Israeli attacks on civilians in Lebanon and Iran, which replicate the indiscriminate warfare used in Gaza, threatening the lives of millions of people in the region.

The Biennale's recent attempt to reintroduce Russia has triggered a political crisis in Italy, revealing two facts that can no longer be concealed: first, that the Biennale is not a neutral

platform but a political space; and second, that it continues to operate through clear double standards.

The Venice Biennale has previously declared itself democratic and antifascist—most clearly in 1974, when it denounced Pinochet's 1973 coup in Chile, and in its exclusion of apartheid South Africa from 1968 to 1993, contributing to the international cultural boycott that helped isolate the regime.

By refusing to act in the face of Israel's war crimes, the Biennale has not only abdicated responsibility but eroded its own history and principles, turning an international platform once aligned with struggles against oppression into a cultural cover for genocide. In doing so, it has normalized the culture-washing of ethnic cleansing and contributed to a broader regime of unaccountability that weakens international law and removes the guardrails meant to prevent the widening of war.

ANGA continues to focus its demand on the exclusion of Israel from the Venice Biennale, in response to the call from Palestinian civil society to boycott the normalisation of Israel's illegal occupation and apartheid, and its war crimes, and to take action where governments refuse.

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Art Not Genocide Alliance (ANGA)

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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. ANGA is a collective with no sole authors. 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.