



PRESS RELEASE | 17 April 2024

NO BUSINESS AS USUAL - BOYCOTT THE GENOCIDE PAVILION

NO VISITORS, NO PRESS, NO PARTIES: Art Not Genocide Alliance (ANGA) escalates its campaign with simultaneous protests outside the Israeli Pavilion and in the city of Venice

ANGA calls for an end to the genocide being perpetrated by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza, an end to the apartheid and an end to the occupation of Palestine. ANGA's call for the exclusion of Israel, on trial at the International Court of Justice for plausible genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, from this year's 60th Venice Biennale has gained nearly 24,000 signatures.

The international solidarity and pressure from global arts workers, has resulted in a retreat by the artistic team of the Genocide Pavilion. Contrary to their claims, they have not withdrawn, and the pavilion has not been closed. We do not applaud empty and opportunistic gestures timed for maximum press coverage, and leaving video works on view to the public, while Palestinians are killed by Israel every hour and millions face imminent famine.

The Italian Culture Minister has refused ANGA's request; and the Biennale has failed to condemn Israel, or to exclude its pavilion, while it commits genocide against the Palestinian people. ANGA notes, again, that the Biennale has formerly excluded apartheid states (South Africa) and denounced states involved in illegal military aggression (Russia). Israel should not be an exception.

Israel continues its violent acts with impunity, and with the complicity of many global actors (US, UK, EU, Canada, Australia, and others). Every day, urgent calls for action against famine and genocide are issued by the United Nations. These go unheeded.

Today, ANGA escalates our campaign with four significant actions:

1. Simultaneous protests outside the Israeli Pavilion and at Rialto Bridge in the centre of Venice
2. Multiple ANGA poster campaigns throughout the city, highlighting evidence of Israeli genocide, and celebrating Palestinian artists including Bayan Abu Nahla, Eltiqa Collective (Dina Matar, Mohammed Al Hawajri, Mohamed Abusal, and Raed Issa), Hadil Alsafadi, Hazem Harb, Khaled Hourani, Malak Mattar, Maram Ali, and Narmeen Hamadeh
3. Distribution of a pamphlet documenting the history of protest at the Biennale and a map detailing genocide-complicit nations in the Giardini
4. Display of ANGA exhibition labels by artists participating in the Biennale who wish to make visible their collective refusal of the Israeli Pavilion and to show support for ANGA's ongoing campaign

To accept the inclusion of the Israeli pavilion is to accept genocide, to normalise the ongoing decimation of an entire population, to deny human rights, and to create a precedent for justifying totalitarianism. It is to undermine international law and to dismiss the desperate pleas of humanitarian aid groups and medics across the world. Today, arts workers gather to refuse the presence of a genocidal apartheid state on the world cultural stage of the Venice Biennale. ANGA demands that the Israeli pavilion be shut down until there is a permanent ceasefire, an end to the genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, and an end to the apartheid and occupation of Palestine.

ANGA bears witness to the more than 33,797 Palestinians killed in Gaza, more than 76,000 injured, and tens of thousands, presumed dead, who remain trapped beneath the rubble of their former homes. 1.7 million people, 85% of Gaza's population, have been displaced. 1.1 million Gazans face immediate famine, deliberately imposed by Israel, as it continues to block aid to the people of Gaza. The state of Israel promotes death, cruelty, starvation, and ethnic cleansing. The official presence of Israel at the Biennale disqualifies any discussion of equality, justice, freedom in art as in life. It makes a mockery of the Biennale. **There can be no enjoyment of art, no business as usual, during a genocide.**

Today, ANGA reconfirms 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 state** 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.

BOYCOTT THE GENOCIDE PAVILION AT THE VENICE BIENNALE.

No visitors, no press, no parties.

Art Not Genocide Alliance (ANGA)

Supporters of ANGA's open letter include public figures and academics such as Ariella Aïsha Azoulay, Brian Eno, Tariq Ali, and Yanis Varoufakis, as well as **more than 300 previous and upcoming Biennale participants**, including: Adam Broomberg, Agnes Questionmark, Ahmet Ögüt, Alessandro Petti, Ali Yass, Ana Laura Aláez, Ashkan Sepahvand, Banu Cennetoğlu, Bronwyn Katz, Cathy Wilkes, Charlie Prodger, Claire Fontaine, Cooking Sections, Daniela Ortiz, Diego Marcon, Dora Garcia, Evan Ifekoya, Hildigunnur Birgisdottir, Hit Man Gurung, Ivor MacAskill & Rosana Cade, Jesse Darling, Jota Mombaça, Julieta Aranda, Katja Novitskova, Kemang Wa Lehulere, Ken Loach, Koki Tanaka, Larissa Sansour, Léopold Lambert, Lydia Ourahmane, Niamh O'Malley, Nina Katchadourian, Nan Goldin, P Staff, Pilvi Takala, Quinn Latimer, Sidsel Meineche Hansen, Solange Pessoa, Sophia Al-Maria, Sumitra Upham, Tania Bruguera, Yto Barrada, and Zineb Sidera.

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Contact us by email for further information and interviews:

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Website: <https://anga.live/> | **Instagram:** [@ANGAlliance](https://www.instagram.com/ANGAlliance) | **Twitter:** [@ANG_Alliance](https://twitter.com/ANG_Alliance)

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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 our statements to the Venice Biennale and to be part of our address. ANGA is a collective with no sole authors or organisers. 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.