

# ITI ACTION COMMITTEE FOR ARTISTS RIGHTS (ACAR)

artistsrights.iti-germany.de

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2022–2024

### Members:

(As from the 36th ITI World Congress, Fujairah (Spain), February 2023)

Thomas Engel (Germany), Coordinator

Yvona Kreuzmannova (Czech Republic), Mikko Kanninen, Anna Linnea Stara (Finland), Masahiko Yokobori (Japan), Ulricha Johnson, Sandra Karlung (Sweden), Teresa Eyring (U.S.), Thomas Engel (Germany). Jessica Kahwaa, Uganda, Gad Kaynar (Israel), Tatjana Azmann (Slovenia), Ádám Bellaagh Berzsenyi (Hungary). Corresponding members from Hong Kong and Switzerland.

### Activities 2022

At the end of the year, mass arrests, show trials and executions of theatre artists in Iran were in the focus. ACAR published a regularly updated list with the names of more than 45 imprisoned theatre artists.

### Activities 2023

The committee met twice in February at the **36th ITI World Congress** in Fujairah (UAE). In view of the global increase in crises, war and repression, the urgent question arose as to how the ITI can help artists under threat in the future. Since ACAR does not have its own funds and resources for protective residencies, another urgent task is to refer cases to appropriately equipped networks and human rights organisations and to intensify cooperation across all national contacts. National political contacts in the respective national centres are to be used more intensively for artists at risk issues. Together with the ITI Committee for Theatre in Conflict Regions (TCZN), ACAR organised one of the public forums at the congress entitled **Performing Arts: Acting Peace**, which was moderated by Fabio Tolledi (Italy) and Thomas Engel (Germany).

June Wroclaw (Poland): **Saving Hope: Theatrical Activism in Spaces of Conflict**. International Symposium in Cooperation with Grotowski Institute and Theatre in Conflict Zones Network (TCZN) with participants (online and on site) from Ramallah, Syria, Israel, Sri Lanka Italy, Poland, Spain, Germany. The focus was on the question of how theatre works from conflict regions can be given a wider reach and the symposium, with its hybrid format, provided a practical opportunity.

In 2023, ACAR published **20 reports on cases of censorship, violations and threats to artistic freedom, human rights violations against artists**.

6 reports were about repression as a result of the protests against the regime in **Iran**, 4 came from **Russia**.

With the outbreak of the war between Israel and Hamas in October, the need to use the committee as a place of protected dialogue and information about the internal views of the parties to the conflict increased under the global political pressure to take a stand.

## Activities 2024 (until May)

January 30: **online committee meeting** on the situation after the Hamas Attack on Israel and the perspectives for international cultural cooperation.

February 27 **Social Practices for Performing Arts** online masterclass ITI Italy. Thomas Engel attended for ACAR with lecture: **On Declining of Artistic Freedom.**

5 posts on the website

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