

CALL FROM THE FILM INDUSTRY

By the end of 2023, over 1000 Danish filmmakers signed a letter demanding that our Danish government work purposefully for a ceasefire in Gaza. Since then, the massacres, destruction and cynicism have grown to surreal dimensions. We are eyewitnesses to an unprecedented humanitarian and ecological disaster, and unimaginable war crimes by any international standard. Crimes that Denmark is complicit in, through the export of weapon parts and uncritical support for the American foreign policy.

For eleven months, Israel has carpet bombed the Palestinian civilian population, killing more children, journalists, health workers and aid workers than in any other war or armed conflict to date. Israel has bombed schools, hospitals, universities, roads, mosques, churches, kindergartens and homes. Trees and crops have been bombed to pieces, water resources destroyed, and the environment has been deeply polluted. Rebuilding Gaza will take generations and cost trillions. In addition, there is the environmental burden of the war and reconstruction, which will amount to billions of tonnes of CO₂.

In January, the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to do everything possible to prevent genocide. They have done the opposite.

The massacres in Gaza are the culmination of Israel's 75 years of displacement, oppression and dehumanization of the Palestinian people. As several Israelis, who are critical of the government put it, the bombings are an expression of the fact that Israel has lost its soul, or as other anti-Zionist Jews put it; Israel has sunk into a psychosis of equal parts trauma, guilt and racist overlord mentality.

As Danes and filmmakers, we cannot stand idly by as our government continues to be complicit in the war crimes committed by Israel, with the US as a facilitator. It must stop. When our government fails to distance itself from the atrocities that are unfolding against the Palestinian, Arab and primarily Muslim victims, it is an expression of the same structural racism that has driven the colonialist project in the last long era of world history. An era it's time we put behind us.

From the highest and most powerful side in the Danish government, it has been more important to shame and belittle the voice of Palestinians

and the solidarity protests, than to support the international community's condemnation of Israel's repeated atrocities. We are speechless at this kind of prioritization on the part of certain politicians. As Danish filmmakers, storytellers and artists, we feel compelled to use our voice and try to call out our responsible politicians.

In the Danish film industry, we have focused on inclusion and diversity for years. We have agreed it is important that there is room for all types of voices. However, that rhetoric seems hollow and empty if one is not prepared to speak out in the face of the hideous atrocities in Gaza (and the West Bank), which constitute the most violent manifestation of precisely the racism, discrimination and injustice that we want to see an end to.

Film Workers for Palestine is for all who take a stand against the official Danish line, who are for the protection of the civilian population and for a free Palestine and a just peace. If you are one of us, sign the petition, follow us on Instagram, show up to demonstrations in our common block, or get involved with initiatives and activities where we can use our industry to spread the word. There are increasingly more and more of us!

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