



# ITI Action Committee for Artists Rights (ACAR)



# Vision

## ACAR

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*ITI Action Committee For Artists Rights*



International Theatre Institute  
World Organization for the Performing Arts

“Cultural diversity can be protected and promoted only if human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, information and communication as well as the ability of individuals to choose cultural expressions, are guaranteed.”

According to the First guiding principle of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression ACAR watches and makes the international theatre community react to treats and violence against theatre people and severe restrictions to work with theatre activities, wherever it occurs in the world.



# Mission

ACAR



ACAR collects, proves, analyses and make public cases of violation of the rights of theatre artists and the right to free artistic expression.

The cases are addressed to politicians on a formal political level in the name of ITI, according to ACAR's reaction scheme.

ACAR cooperates with other Human and Artists Rights organisations and networks worldwide.



# Goals

## ACAR



ACAR works on:

- Rising the visibility of violations on artists rights and freedom of expression.
- Supporting politically persecuted artist
- Bringing the specificity of theatre work as collective and public live art into international artists rights movement
- Developing a UNESCO reaction scheme for persecuted and censored artists.



# Key Activities

## ACAR



- ▶ “The Right to Freedom of Artistic Expression and Creativity“ Alfons Karabuda, Expert to the UNHRC, keynote speech to the 34th ITI World Congress November 2014, Yerevan, Armenia (left photo)
- ▶ ACAR reaction for more than 20 personal cases within the last 3 years
- ▶ ITI resolution concerning a fair visa policy for theatre artists and a motion to support the new UNESCO survey on the status of the artists at the ITI world congress 2014
- ▶ “Attacks and defenses: the public space of theatre.” ACAR Presentation at the 1<sup>st</sup> international conference on theatre and censorship in Cairo, 2015



# Impacts/Achievement

## ACAR



source: [www.newtactics.org](http://www.newtactics.org)

- ▶ Via ACAR the ITI, like other NGOs, raises its voice by making official statements to political authorities. These statements have been prepared on the basis of the experience and the research by the committee, with participation of national centres, and in connection with other international networks and activities.
- ▶ This has improved the visibility of ITI and makes ITI to a valuable partner for other networks and initiatives.



# Future Plans

ACAR



artwork from the promotional material of the conference on theatre and censorship in Cairo, 2015

- ▶ ACAR works to implement Artists Rights and freedom of expression as a cross-sectional task for all ITI members and centres
- ▶ ACAR aims to publish a case list about violations of theatre artists rights every year for the World Theatre Day



# Communication Channels

ACAR

- ▶ [www.artistsrights.iti-germany.de](http://www.artistsrights.iti-germany.de) equipped with RSS and RSS feedburner
- ▶ the ACAR newsletter

The screenshot shows the ACAR website header with the logo and navigation menu. Below the header, there are two news articles. The first article is titled "UN Consultation on Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage" and is dated May 26, 2016. The second article is titled "Voices of Culture Platform denounces EU refugee policy" and is dated May 14, 2016. The website also features a search bar and a footer with contact information.

**ACAR**  
ITI Action Committee For Artists Rights

news archive 2011-14 useful links members about contact rss

**UN Consultation on Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage**  
May 26, 2016 News, worldwide

The special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Ms. Katarina Barak, intends to devote her next thematic reports to the intentional destruction of cultural heritage and would like to invite relevant actors to send contributions to inform her report. The consultation aims to assess the intentional destruction of cultural heritage as a violation of human rights and its impact on the exercise of the rights to enjoy and access cultural heritage, to access, contribute to and enjoy the arts and to participate in cultural life.

Submission of maximum 2500 words should be submitted no later than 10 June 2016.  
Source and details: [UNHCR](#)

**Voices of Culture Platform denounces EU refugee policy**  
May 14, 2016 News

ACAR as member of the Artists Rights Justice network (ARJ) which is now a part of the European "Voices of Culture" platform supports the statement against the current refugee policy of the European Union: "We, the members of the Voices of Culture Platform, join the Council of Europe and other international human rights NGOs in denouncing the EU/Turkey Agreement of 16 March 2016, as illegal under European and international law, the call on the EU, the EP but especially our own Member State governments to make the utmost active efforts in the shortest possible time frame to honour the values of the EU, uphold and to construct a policy and programme that can make European proud rather than ashamed."



# Active Members

## ACAR

- ▶ **Action Committee for Artists Right**  
as from the 34th ITI World Congress,  
Yerevan (Armenia), November 2014
  
- ▶ *working group:*
- ▶ Ann Mari Engel (Sweden), President  
Thomas Engel (Germany), Coordinator,  
Casurao Diosdado (Phillipines)  
Kevin Bitterman (USA)  
Hanna Helavuori (Finland)
  
- ▶ *contact persons:*
- ▶ Cheikh Okbaoui, Algeria  
Ambroise Mbia, Cameroon  
Alexandra Rice, Belgium  
Fanyia Williams, United Kingdom  
Hamadou Mandé, Burkina Faso  
Gad Kaynar, Israel  
Tatjana Ažman, Slovenia



# Contact

ACAR

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