



All CCS and Cross-sectoral

Nearly 400 Film Industry Figures Condemn the Israeli Atrocities in Gaza

Prominent film industry figures, including Pedro Almodóvar, Yorgos Lanthimos, Richard Gere and Susan Sarandon, released an open letter condemning Israel's genocidal actions in Gaza, demanding artistic solidarity, breaking the industry's silence

At the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, nearly 400 prominent figures from the international film industry, including actors, directors, and producers such as Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon, Pedro Almodóvar, Mark Ruffalo, Javier Bardem, and Ruben Östlund, released an open letter condemning what they described as Israel's 'genocide' in Gaza. Published in the French newspaper *Libération* and the US magazine [Variety](#), the letter called on the film community to "rise" and "name reality," criticising the industry's silence and passivity in the face of the ongoing violence and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

The letter paid tribute to [Fatma Hassouna](#), a 25-year-old Palestinian freelance photojournalist who was the subject of Sepideh Farsi's documentary *Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk*. The film was selected for the ACID section at Cannes. Ms. Hassouna was killed in an Israeli airstrike on 16 April 2025, alongside ten of her family members, just one day after the film's selection was announced. The letter highlighted her death as emblematic of the dangers faced by journalists and artists in Gaza, noting that over 200 journalists have been killed since October 2023.



The letter details that, just weeks earlier in March, [Palestinian filmmaker Hamdan Ballal](#), winner of an Oscar for his film *No Other Land*, was 'brutally attacked by Israeli settlers and then kidnapped by the army before being released under international pressure'. It notes that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was pushed to apologise for not adequately supporting him.

At the festival's opening ceremony, Cannes jury president [Juliette Binoche](#) paid tribute to Fatima Hassouna, hinting at a possible further statement or gesture from the festival in response to the ongoing situation. Binoche had been initially reported as a signatory to the open letter, though her name did not appear on the final published list. She told reporters, "You'll maybe understand it a little later," suggesting that the festival might address the issue more directly during its proceedings.

The letter follows:



Fatma Hassona was 25 years old.

She was a Palestinian freelance photojournalist. She was targeted by the Israeli army on 16 April 2025, the day after it was announced that Sepideh Farsi's film "Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk," in which she was the star, had been selected in the ACID section of the Cannes Film Festival.

She was about to get married.

Ten of her relatives, including her pregnant sister, were killed by the same Israeli strike.

Since the terrible massacres of 7 October 2023, no foreign journalist has been authorised to enter the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army is targeting civilians. More than 200 journalists have been deliberately killed. Writers, film-makers and artists are being brutally murdered.

At the end of March, Palestinian filmmaker Hamdan Ballal, who won an Oscar for his film "No Other Land," was brutally attacked by Israeli settlers and then kidnapped by the army, before being released under international pressure. The Oscar Academy's lack of support for Hamdan Ballal sparked outrage among its own members and it had to publicly apologize for its inaction.

We are ashamed of such passivity.

Why is it that cinema, a breeding ground for socially committed works, seems to be so indifferent to the horror of reality and the oppression suffered by our sisters and brothers?

As artists and cultural players, we cannot remain silent while genocide is taking place in Gaza and this unspeakable news is hitting our communities hard.

What is the point of our professions if not to draw lessons from history, to make films that are committed, if we are not present to protect oppressed voices?

Why this silence?

The far right, fascism, colonialism, anti-trans and anti-LGBTQIA+, sexist, racist, islamophobic and antisemitic movements are waging their battle on the battlefield of ideas, attacking publishing, cinema and universities, and that's why we have a duty to fight.

Let's refuse to let our art be an accomplice to the worst.

Let us rise up.

Let us name reality.

Let us collectively dare to look at it with the precision of our sensitive hearts, so that it can no longer be silenced and covered up.

Let us reject the propaganda that constantly colonizes our imaginations and makes us lose our sense of humanity.

For Fatma, for all those who die in indifference.

Cinema has a duty to carry their messages, to reflect our societies.

Let's act before it's too late.

The signatories are:

Khalid Abdalla

Noée Abita

Hany Abu-Assad

Raphaëlle Agogué

Iyad Alasttal

Catia Albertazzi

Vlad Alexis

Taraneh Alidoosti

Waad Al-Kateab

Yasmine Al Massri

Pedro Almodóvar

Pedro Alonso

Cristèle Alves Meira

Serdar Akar

India Amarteifio

Gianni Amelio

Mo Amer

Carmine Amoroso

Elisa Amoruso

Romain André

Roberto Andò

Geoff Arbourne

Francesca Archibugi

Tiziana Aristarco

Swann Arlaud

Olivier Azam

Gökçe Bahadır

Jeanne Balibar

Baloji

Avital Barak

Carlos Bardem

Javier Bardem

Melissa Barrera

Belma Baş

Dominique Baumard

Xavier Beauvois

Saïd Ben Saïd

Leïla Bekhti

Luca Bellino

Suzy Bemba

Adila Bendimerad

Kaouther Ben Hania

Dali Benssalah

Fabrizio Bentivoglio

Julie Bertuccelli

Simone Bitton

Konstantin Bojanov

Bertrand Bonello

Agathe Bonitzer

Amélie Bonnin

Bruno Bontzolakis

Lucie Borleteau

Sami Bouajila

Elodie Bouchez

Bastien Bouillon

Guillaume Brac

Rachida Brakni

Evelyne Brochu

Silvia Brunelli

Jean-Stéphane Bron

Celeste Brunnquell

Gianfranco Cabiddu

Esmeralda Calabria

Laure Calamy

Mimmo Calopresti

Mehmet Can Mertoğlu

Eric Cantona

Stefania Casini

Antonio Maria Castaldo

Marco Castaldi

Sergio Castellitto

Beniamino Catena

Ebru Nuri Ceylan

Nuri Bilge Ceylan

Lolita Chammah

Moïra Chappedelaine-Vautier

Amira Chebli

Nadim Cheikhrouha

Antoine Chevrollier

Simona Chiocca

Julie Christie

Héliel Cisterne

Isabel Coixet

Daniele Coluccini

Maddalena Crippa

David Cronenberg

Costa-Gavras

Saverio Costanzo

Paolo Costella

Pappi Corsicato

Brian Cox

Marcia Cross

Alfonso Cuarón

Liam Cunningham

Sinéad Cusack

Fatima Daas

Cherien Dabis

Béatrice Dalle

Charles Dance

Ciro D'Emilio

Arkin Mercan Dede

Mary Ellen Davis

Slimane Dazi

Yann Dedet

Matthieu de Laborde

Pierre Deladonchamps

Émilie Deleuze

Agnès de Sacy

Volfango De Biasi

Ciro De Caro

Maura Delpero

Maria De Medeiros

Giuliana De Sio

Maria Teresa De Vito

Sylvain Desclous

Lukas Dhont

Juan Diego Botto

Alice Diop

Javad Djavahery

Julie Delpy

Xavier Dolan

Dimitri Doré

Laetitia Dosch

Joana Dos Reis

Mike Downey, OBE.

Sara Driver

Luana Duchemin

Sophie Dupuis

Pierre-Nicolas Durand

Virginie Efira

Hannah Einbinder

Sayyid El Alami

Ouidad Elma

Amir El-Masry

Mareike Engelhardt

Víctor Erice

Benedikt Erlingsson

Adèle Exarchopoulos

Roberto Faenza

Frédéric Farrucci

Sepideh Farsi

Nina Faure

Elda Ferri

Margherita Ferri

Isabella Ferrari

Lisa Festa

Ralph Fiennes

Sophie Fiennes

Milena Fiore

Mahdi Fleifel

Michele Fornasero

Marine Francen

Blanche Gardin

Lena Garrel

Carmen Garcia

Jean-Raymond Garcia

Nicole Garcia

Pablo Garcia Canga

Matteo Garrone

Alessandro Gassmann

Nadia Genet

Xavier Gens

Paolo Genovese

Aurélia Georges

Richard Gere

Denis Gheerbrant

Adriano Giannini

Alex Gibney

Raphaël Girardot

Jonathan Glazer

Judith Godrèche

Brice Gravelle

Emmanuel Gras

Zeno Graton

Marco Greco

José Luis Guerín

Diane Guerrero

Samir Guesmi

Vincent Guilbert

Alain Guiraudie

German Gutierrez

Naomi Foner Gyllenhaal

Grimur Hákonarson

Rebecca Hall

Arthur Harari

Misan Harriman

Lena Headey

Clotilde Hesme

Hafsia Herzi

Ted Hope

Vanessa Hope

Sandra Huller

Fiorella Infascelli

Mohamed Jabaly

Annemarie Jacir

Alma Jodorowsky

Óskar Jónasson

Elisabeth Jonniaux

Valdimar Jóhannsson

Rachel Leah Jones

Þorsteinn Jónsson

Gladys Joujou

Radu Jude

Ilker Kaleli

Asif Kapadia

Semih Kaplanoğlu

Mathieu Kassovitz

Aki Kaurismäki

Jacques Kébadian

Erwan Kepoa Falé

Yannick Kergoat

Sofian Khammes

Michel Khleifi

Shaka King

Hélène Klotz

Nicolas Klotz

Wilma Labate

Ariane Labed

Mourad Laffitte

Philippe Laïk

Yórgos Lánthimos

Alexis Langlois

Nadav Lapid

Luc Leclerc du Sablon

Erwan Le Duc

Radouan Leflahi

Mike Leigh

Blandine Lenoir

Philippe Lespinasse

Mica Levi

Luigi Lo Cascio

Elisabetta Lodoli

Florence Loiret-Caille

Stefano Lorenzi

Boris Lojkine

Fabiomassimo Lozzi

Daniele Lucchetti

Silvia Luzi

Filippo Macelloni

Guslagie Malanda

David Mambouch

Simone Manetti

Andrea Manni

Miriam Margolyes

Narimane Mari

Vincent Mariette

Félix Maritaud

Laïla Marrakchi

Lucrecia Martel

Mario Martone

Alessandra Masi

Valerio Mastandrea

Patricia Mazuy

Simon McBurney

Mounia Meddour

Sylvestre Meinzer

Fernando Meirelles

Kleber Mendonça Filho

Nina Menkes

Stéphane Mercurio

Christian Carmosino Mereu

Frédéric Mermoud

Nina Meurisse

Valerio Mieli

Emmanuelle Millet

Davide Minnella

Avi Mograbi

Indya Moore

Mercedes Morán

Laura Morante

Gérard Mordillat

Viggo Mortensen

Anna Mougialis

Gabriele Muccino

Peter Mullan

Margherita Murolo

Lino Musella

Arab Nasser

Tarzan Nasser

Dalia Naous

Nadine Naous

Raphaël Neal

Enza Negrone

Susanna Nicchiarelli

Cynthia Nixon

Bruno Nuytten

Andrea Occhipinti

Michela Occhipinti

Joshua Oppenheimer

Luis Ortega

Ruben Östlund

Damien Ounouri

Ferzan Ozpetek

Rosa Palasciano

Hlynur Pálmason

Daphné Patakia

Paul Pascot

Raffaele Passerini

Guy Pearce

Elisabeth Perceval

Antonin Peretjatko

Nahuel Pérez Biscayart

Aurélia Petit

Ralitza Petrova

Just Philippot

Giuseppe Piccioni

Caroline Poggi

Laura Poitras

Claire Pommet (Pomme)

Franssou Prenant

Frédérique Pressmann

Vimala Pons

Marco Simon Puccioni

Katell Quillévéré

Olivier Rabourdin

Odessa Rae

Michèle Ray-Gavras

Annick Redolfi

Christophe Régin

Jérémie Renier

Yannick Renier

Rémy Ricordeau

Michele Riondino

Tessa Ross

Yannick Rosset

Cecilia Roth

Mark Ruffalo

Rúnar Rúnarsson

Ira Sachs

Zaho de Sagazan

Ludivine Sagnier

Céline Sallette

Claudio Santamaria

Susan Sarandon

Stefano Sardo

Stefania Sandrelli

Aloïse Sauvage

Greta Scarano

Angela Schanelec

Pierre Schoeller

Niels Schneider

Vassili Schneider

Alessandro Scippa

Amanda Seales

Tracey Seaward

Sarah Seené

Guillaume Senez

Léonor Serraille

Alia Shawkat

Mélanie Simon-Franza

Eyal Sivan

Giancarlo Soldi

Paolo Sorrentino

Massimo Spano

Morgan Spector

Laetitia Spigarelli

Italo Spinelli

Juliette Smadja

Robyn Slovo

Roger Stahl

Teona Strugar Mitevska

Laurent Sylvestre

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Léa Todorov

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Melita Toscan du Plantier

Claire Touzard

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Pamela Varela

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Giovanni Veronesi

Paolo Virzì

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Nicolas Wadimoff

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