

Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks

Action Committee for Artists Rights ACAR

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Activities 2014 – 2016

Working Group

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2014

October-December: Implementation of new Word-Press based website and implementation of a professional mailing system for the newsletter (12 ACAR members, 42 subscribers, plus forwardings by members and the General secretariat). Both systems are hosted and maintained by the German ITI Centre. 2 newsletters with the recent entries of the ACAR news, calls for action and cases from the website were produced and mailed on 10 November and 4 December respectively.

2015

January: Ann Mari Engel and Thomas Engel attended the "Winter Camp" of the Artists Rights Justice (ARJ) international working group in Brussels, Belgium. ACAR became a member of ARJ which presently has 20 international member organizations, 3 allies and 5 individual members. ARJ is an independent, cross-sector working group (arts and human rights) set up in 2012 under the framework of the European civil society dialogue platform, "Access to Culture" (see <http://cultureactioneurope.org/milestone/arj-arts-rights-justice>).

For ITI's Action Committee on Artists Rights, ARJ became a valuable source for information exchange on violation of artist rights and for exchange of experiences in the field.

May: ACAR was invited to attend a conference on Theatre and Censorship in Cairo (Egypt). Thomas Engel represented ACAR and gave a lecture on the work of international networks for freedom of expression entitled "Attacks and Defences: The Public Space of Theatre"

September: Ann Marie Engel and Thomas Engel attended a meeting of Artists Rights Justice in Belgium, and, in addition, hosted an ACAR board meeting

October: Thomas Engel members of the German Parliament to the growing problems of artists'

mobility globally, including the unsatisfying visa-issuing practice in Europe which represents a failure in fulfilling Article 16 of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Newsletters: Five were produced and mailed on 6 January, 16 February, 3 March, 24 November and 21 December.

2016

February: Ann Mari Engel and Thomas Engel attended the ITI Joint Committee Meeting in Dibba (Fujairah, UAE).

For the world Congress in Manaus, ACAR plans to invite Todd Lester, a member of the World Policy Institute, New York/USA, and Co-Founder of Free Dimensional (now living in Rio de Janeiro), for a lecture on shelter residencies for persecuted artists. Brazil has founded a series of shelter residencies within the last few years. We also plan to introduce the Toolkit on Artists Rights, produced by ARJ.

Newsletter: A newsletter was distributed on February 5 and another one is planned before the World Congress. An improved RSS newsfeed has been implemented to the website.

ACAR cases:

- Tania Bruguera (visual artist and performer, Cuba), was arrested on December 30, 2014 for staging Tatlin's Whisper #6. (Letter of support)
- Miha Turšič (director and co-founder of the Cultural Centre of European Space Technologies (KSEVT) in Vitanje, Slovenia), went on hunger strike on 1st of October 2015 for better financing of culture. (Report)
- Mariam Diarra (dancer and choreographer, Mali), was refused an entry visa on the French territory for a concert and a masterclass at the Africolor festival (Seine-Saint-Denis) on 18 December 2015. (Report)
- Mohammed Abu Sakha (Palestine), performer and trainer arrested by the Israeli military and sentenced by a military court to administrative detention, without any charges. (Report, petition)
- Jelili Atiku (performer from Lagos, Nigeria) was arrested on Monday 18 January 2016 and arraigned on criminal charges of "constituting public disturbance, and inciting the public with his performance". (Report)
- Alfonso Lázaro and Raúl García from the group Títeres desde Abajo (Puppets from Below), Granada (Spain), have been imprisoned for a street theatre show on February 6. Both have been released from jail on February 10 but are still under indictment. (Report, petition)

www.artistsrights.iti-germany.de