



## 2023-2024 Annual Report to FSE

### *Israel is at war, and this colors everything!*

First, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have sent us personal words of support. We deeply appreciate your friendship and empathy.

On October 7th, 2023, two days after the conclusion of the previous IAWG AGM, Israel was struck by the most severe and cruel terror attack since 9/11, perpetrated by Hamas. At least 1,139 Israelis were murdered—815 of them civilians—and an additional 1,941 were injured. Two hundred fifty-one Israelis were abducted to the Gaza Strip, including children, women, and the elderly. Of these, 101 are still being held hostage by Hamas terrorists.

Israeli villages and kibbutzim (communal settlements) were invaded, pillaged, and destroyed. Israeli civilians were subjected to physical abuse, rape, and mutilation. Israel mobilized its reserve forces, retaliated, and we have been at war on several fronts since October 2023. It is a bloody conflict, with casualties on both sides.

Naturally, all governmental offices have diverted budgets and resources to the war effort. Production has halted, deals have been put on hold, and funds have been withdrawn.

- The judicial reform, which we believed had been deflected last year, has quietly restarted, using the war as a diversion.
- In addition, the Minister of Culture and Sports initiated a reform in the national film funds, aiming to reallocate funding towards commercially successful projects. This will disrupt the entire funding system in the film industry, threatening to eliminate support for the documentary genre. The SGI is in talks with the Minister of Culture in an effort to balance the new reform.
- We are still striving to push forward changes to the communications law to bring regulation of streaming services on par with traditional broadcast networks. As of today, all local broadcasters have launched unregulated streaming services, aiming to shut down the older broadcast channels and thus avoid regulation and the obligation to produce local original content. We believe that unless the

communications law is updated as soon as possible, within three years there will be no Israeli broadcaster producing original drama except for the public broadcaster. Our chances of succeeding in both campaigns are slim, as the war and the fight for a ceasefire and the return of our hostages take most of our attention and resources, and these issues are not at the top of the government's priority list.

- Israeli broadcaster Reshet, under the guise of war, attempted to withhold payment of residuals from eligible screenwriters but relented after a short but fierce correspondence with us. The turning point seemed to come from our threats to push for Reshet to be added to international no-work blacklists, which would hinder their efforts to do business abroad.

Sadly, there are no other updates worth mentioning.

Peace!