



**WRITERS
GUILD OF
AMERICA, WEST**

November 17, 2016

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
3 Kaplan St. Hakiryah
Jerusalem
91950

Dear Prime Minister:

The Writers Guild of America, West, a union of 8,000 television, film and digital media writers, stands in solidarity with the Scriptwriters Guild of Israel (SGI) in their fight to preserve public broadcasting. SGI has fought for many years for the creation of a free and independent public broadcaster. The new Israel Public Broadcasting Corporation is the result of a law passed by your government only last year, which you are now attempting to dismantle. This action threatens free speech and the livelihoods of those who tell Israel's stories. We join their call to end the campaign to eliminate the public broadcaster.

A democratic society requires a media free from government censorship. Journalists and writers must have the freedom to report and tell stories without political interference. As writers, it is our obligation to speak truth to power and stand up to those would silence our voices. Writers around the world are watching and we will do everything we can to support our Israeli brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Rodman
President, Writers Guild of America West

HOWARD A. RODMAN
PRESIDENT
DAVID A. GOODMAN
VICE PRESIDENT
AARON MENDELSON
SECRETARY-TREASURER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARA BROCK AKIL
ANDREA BERLOFF
ZOANNE CLACK
MARJORIE DAVID
CARLETON EASTLAKE
COURTNEY ELLINGER
JONATHAN FERNANDEZ
CHIP JOHANNESSEN
GLEN MAZZARA
ZAK PENN
LUVH RAKHE
BILLY RAY
ARI B. RUBIN
MEREDITH STIEHM
PATRIC M. YERRONE
MATTHEW WEINER

DAVID J. YOUNG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
CHARLES B. SLOCUM
REBECCA KESSINGER
LISE ANDERSON

ANTHONY R. SEGALL
GENERAL COUNSEL

