

फ़िल्म राइटर्स एसोसिएशन



FILM WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

२०१-२०४, रिचा, प्लॉट नं. बी-२९, ऑपोजिट सिटी मॉल,
ऑफ न्यू लिंक रोड, अंधेरी (प.), मुंबई - ४०० ०५३.
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REGISTERED UNDER TRADE UNION
ACT 1926, REGISTERED NO. 3726
(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF
WESTERN INDIA CINE EMPLOYEES)

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Ref:FWA:43:2013

January 4, 2014

Mr David Gilo
Director General
Israel Antitrust Authority
4, Am V'Olam St.
P.O.B. 34281
Jerusalem 9134102
Israel

Dear Sir,

Re: TALI's status and operations

The Film Writer's Association Mumbai (estd. 1954) is the trade union of Indian film and TV screenwriters, with over 12000 writer-members.

We are writing to you to express our strong and very serious concern about the Israeli Antitrust Authority's pending action against the Israeli collecting society, TALI. We are surprised that the Authority contends a collecting society's operations to be anti-competitive.

You must be aware that the Indian Parliament unanimously agreed to amend the Indian Copyright Act of 1957, thereby not just making screenwriters' right to receive royalty inalienable but also making it mandatory for writers to form a Collecting Society be formed to facilitate the collection and distribution of royalties. This amendment was made keeping in mind best practices of copyright laws and rules governing collective management organizations across the globe.

Writers, artists and other creative persons are regarded as the bedrock of society, enhancing its culture and enriching the lives of its citizens. They occupy a very valuable and special place, especially in modern

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civilisation. Hence, while other countries, including those of the European Union are creating laws and other protocols to protect and facilitate the functioning of collecting societies so that writers' and artists' rights are protected, your contemplated move comes as a shock. In fact, in India, the Competition Act of 2002 clearly makes an exception (Chapter 2, Sub-section 5) of copyright works.

TALI has been doing an outstanding job of protecting and encouraging audio-visual authors and it would be nothing short of a tragedy for them if it is not allowed to function.

We earnestly urge you to allow them to function in the interest of authors, directors and screenwriters.

Yours sincerely,

For Film Writers' Association, Mumbai

Kamlesh Pandey
General Secretary