



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ACTEURS
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ACTORS
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FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE ACTORES

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President AGNETE HAALAND

DOMINICK LUQUER General Secretary

Mr Yuri CHAIKA
Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
15a, Bolshaya Dmitrovka, GSP-3
RU - Moscow 125993

Brussels, 30/08/2012

Sir,

Re: Condemnation of the punk rock group Pussy Riot

The International Federation of Actors (FIA) is writing to express its profound indignation following the condemnation of Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Maria Alyokhina and Yekaterina Samutsevich of the group Pussy Riot to 2 years imprisonment for "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred".

This prison sentence has been universally condemned as a disproportionate response to an artistic protest and expression of political belief. It has served to cast serious doubts over the fairness and transparency of Russia's legal and political system.

The sentence is in flagrant violation of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 10 of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, to both of which Russia is a party. It is further in violation of the 1980 UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of the Artist.

FIA wholeheartedly condemns such grave attacks on freedom of expression in general and on freedom of artistic expression in particular. FIA adds its voice to the many already calling for the reversal of this unjust sentence and we call on our membership to take up the cause of Pussy Riot with the authorities at national and international level. We call for the immediate release of the three artists concerned.

The International Federation of Actors is an international non-governmental organisation representing performers' trade unions, guilds and associations around the world. It voices the professional concerns and interests of actors (in film, television, radio, theatre and live performance), broadcast professionals, dancers, singers, variety and circus artists and others. It has some 100 members in 75 countries worldwide. FIA will stand in solidarity with artists in Russia, so that they can work in better conditions and without fear of persecution.

Yours Sincerely

Dominick LUQUER
General Secretary of FIA