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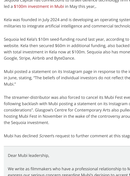
Aki Kaurismäki, Joshua Oppenheimer, Nina Menkes among filmmakers to sign letter condemning Mubi's ties with investor linked to Israeli military

BY MONA TABRAKA | 30.JULY 2025



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AKI KAURISMÄKI, JOSHUA OPPENHEIMER, NINA MENKES

Nearly 40 filmmakers have signed a letter urging Mubi, the arthouse distributor, streaming platform and producer, to sever its ties with Sequoia Capital, an investment firm with ties to the Israeli military and publicly condemn Sequoia for "genocide profiteering" in light of the war in Gaza.

The filmmakers to sign the letter have previously worked with Mubi, and join the mounting pressure on the company to reconsider its relationship with Sequoia.

These include Finland's Aki Kaurismäki, whose Cannes 2023 Competition title *Fallen Leaves* was distributed by Mubi, US filmmaker Joshua Oppenheimer, whose *The Entrieves* bought by Mubi for UK Ireland, Germany and Austria, Romanian filmmaker Radu Jude, with *Do Not Expect Too Much From The End Of The World* bought by Mubi for territories including North America, and US filmmaker Nina Menkes.

Mubi's financial growth as a company is now explicitly tied to the genocide in Gaza, which implicates all of us that work with Mubi," stated the letter.

It continued, "Gaza is enduring mass civilian killings, including of journalists, artists, and film workers, alongside the widespread destruction of Palestinian cultural sites and heritage. We don't believe an arthouse film platform can meaningfully support a global community of creatives while also partnering with a company invested in murdering Palestinian artists and filmmakers."

Scroll down for the full letter and list of signatories

The letter, first reported by *Variety*, also asks Mubi to heed the call made by international industry activist organisation Workers for Palestine to publicly condemn Sequoia Capital for "genocide profiteering"; remove Sequoia Partner Andrew Reed from Mubi's board of directors, and put in place an ethical policy for all future Mubi investments, and respect programming and partnerships guidelines set by the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI).

Sequoia Capital has connections to Israeli defence technology firm Kela. Sequoia led a $100m investment in Kela in May this year.

Kela was founded in July 2024 and is developing an operating system to enable militaries to integrate artificial intelligence into commercial technology.

Sequoia led Kela's $15m seed-funding round last year, according to Sequoia's website. Kela then secured $60m in additional funding, also backed by Sequoia, with total investment in Kela now at $100m. Sequoia also has money in Apple, Google, Stripe, Airbnb and ByteDance.

Mubi posted a statement on its Instagram page in response to the initial criticism in June, stating, "The beliefs of individual investors do not reflect the views of Mubi."

The streamer-distributor was also forced to cancel its Mubi Fest event in Mexico following backlash with Mubi posting a statement on its Instagram citing "safety considerations". Glasgow's Centre for Contemporary Arts also pulled out of hosting Mubi Fest in November in the wake of the controversy around the Sequoia investment.

Mubi has declined Screen's request to further comment at this stage.

Dear Mubi leadership,

We write as filmmakers who have a professional relationship to Mubi to express our concerns about Mubi's investment relationship with Sequoia. In addition to funding from Sequoia Capital, a private equity firm that, since late 2023 has chosen to double down on investing in Israeli military technology companies with the goal of profiting from the Gaza genocide, in 2024, Sequoia heavily invested in Kela, a military tech startup founded by a former senior manager of Palestin Israel and multiple Israeli military intelligence veterans, as well as military drone manufacturer Nexos, and the unmanned aerial vehicle manufacturer, Mach Industries.

Mubi's financial growth as a company is now explicitly tied to the genocide in Gaza, which implicates all of us that work with Mubi. We don't believe an arthouse film platform can meaningfully support a global community of creatives who are partnering with a company invested in murdering Palestinian artists and filmmakers.

We approach our work with care for the people and communities they represent and the audiences who watch it, because as artists we are accountable to more than the bottom line. Yet Mubi's decision to partner with Sequoia demonstrates a total lack of accountability to the artists and communities who have helped the company flourish. We believe that it is our ethical duty to do no harm. We expect our partners, at a minimum, to refuse to be complicit in the horrific violence being waged against Palestinians.

We ask you to heed the call made by Film Workers for Palestine and take action that meaningfully responds to the artists and the audiences who are such an integral part of Mubi's success.

Yours sincerely

- Aki Kaurismäki
- Radu Jude
- Jessica Beshir
- Joshua Oppenheimer
- Robert Greene
- Kazik Radwanski
- Carson Lund
- Michael Basta
- Nada Fisher
- Blake Williams
- Ivo Radivojevic
- Nina Menkes
- Ben Rivers
- Bingham Bryant
- Kit Zauhar
- Ian Edlund
- Sarah Friedland
- Kathleen Chalfant
- Miguel Gomes
- Constance Tsang
- Fruang Minh Quy
- Denigh Campbell
- Laura Huertas
- John Smith
- Andrea Luka Zimmerman
- Cherien Dabis
- Tyler Taormina
- Erik Lund
- Maureen Fazendeiro
- Levan Akin
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- Nahuel Pérez Biscayart
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