



International Association  
of Art Critics

32 rue Yves Toudic – 75010 Paris – FRANCE

***The International Office***

Paris, 3 March 2020

**Subject:** Refusal of entry of Mr Eyal Weizman into United States of America  
cc. Index on Censorship

**Att.:** Mr Robert Wood Johnson  
Ambassador of the United States of America to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland, 33 Nine Elms Ln, Nine Elms, London SW11 7US, United Kingdom

cc. Index on Censorship

Dear Mr Robert Wood Johnson,

The international Association of Art Critics (AICA) is a global organisation, established in 1948 by UNESCO, comprising art critics who are actively engaged in improving International cooperation in the fields of artistic creativity, mediation and endeavour.

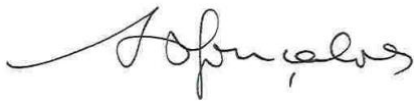
AICA believes that freedom of expression and communication is an important principle and as a basic civil right must be defended. A hallmark of any democracy is its willingness to allow and to accommodate divergent artistic expressions.

We are informed that on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 Mr Eyal Weizman was notified by the London U.S. Embassy that his visa-waiver (ESTA) had been revoked and that he was not authorised to travel to the United States. To our information an interviewer at the Embassy told him that an “algorithm” had identified him as a security threat due to people he had interacted with, places he had travelled to recently, or an unidentified combination of the two. Furthermore he was told that Homeland Security’s investigators could assess his case more promptly if he supplied the names of anyone in his network whom he believed might have triggered the algorithm.

Mr Weizman, founder of the highly respected London-based research collective Forensic Architecture, had planned to visit the opening of its first major survey exhibition in the

United States at the Museum of Art and Design in Miami. Forensic Architecture is known for its use of architectural, spatial, and technological analysis to uncover state and corporate violence. The nature of Mr Weizman's field work is like an investigating journalist and by necessity takes him into conflicted territories and meeting with political activists. AICA International is concerned that Mr Weizman's denial of entrance into the U.S. was based on electronically monitoring a set of connections - the network of associations, people, places, calls, and transactions and that those are being targeted by the U.S. government as security threats. We would like to remind you that Mr Weizman in his professional work has contact with vulnerable communities, activists and experts, and is being entrusted with sensitive information.

AICA International therefore strongly protests the way in which Mr Weizman's visa application was processed and denied. Furthermore we recommend that Mr Weizman's visa application decision is overturned as to avoid future problems in his travels to the U.S.



Lisbeth Rebollo Gonçalves  
President AICA International



Robert-Jan Muller  
Chair, AICA Committee on  
Censorship and Freedom of Expression