



Palestine Football Association

Jerusalem - Palestine

الاتحاد الفلسطيني لكرة القدم

القدس - فلسطين

Media Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Palestine Football Association puts forward a proposal to include an agenda item at the FIFA 74th Congress

March 18th, 2024

The Palestine Football Association (the PFA) has sent an official request to FIFA to include an item in the agenda of the next FIFA Congress to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on May 17th. The PFA's [proposal](#), endorsed by six member associations, invokes FIFA's commitments, as the global football governing body, to respect and protect all internationally recognized human rights, as explicitly outlined in more than a few articles in its statutes by addressing the grave human rights and humanitarian law violations committed by Israel, and the complicity demonstrated by the Israel Football Association (IFA) in its continued inclusion of football teams located in the territory of occupied Palestine within its national league.

The PFA's proposal, sent on March 11th, in accordance with the FIFA statutes, which grants Member associations the right to propose agenda items for the FIFA Congress, implores the Congress to:

1. Adopt immediate and appropriate sanctions against Israeli teams, including national representative teams and club teams, in response to the unprecedented human rights and humanitarian law violations committed by the Israeli occupation in Palestine, particularly in Gaza.





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2. Address without delay the violation of FIFA statutes by the IFA, which is evident in its continued inclusion of football teams located in the territory of another association, namely Palestine, within its national league.
3. Address the repeated failure of the IFA to take decisive action against discrimination and racism within its jurisdiction.

The Proposal brings to attention the serious breaches of the FIFA statutes committed by the IFA:

1. The actions of the Israeli government have resulted in an alarming number of civilian casualties, mostly women and children, and extensive damage in Palestine. The loss of innocent lives, including no less than 99 footballers, destruction of residential units, educational facilities, places of worship, Football facilities, and hospitals, are clear violations of international laws and humanitarian norms.
2. The IFA is complicit in the Israeli government's abuses against Palestinian football by providing moral, economic, and practical support to the occupation. The IFA's representation of the Israeli government's interests, and its demand that the PFA "*must operate through the formal channels of the state of Israel*" contradicts the FIFA statutes, which require member associations to manage their affairs independently and without undue influence from third parties.
3. The IFA's failure to take decisive action against discrimination and racism within its jurisdiction, as exemplified by the actions of Beitar Jerusalem FC, is a direct violation of Article 3 of the FIFA statutes.
4. The IFA continues to incorporate illegal settlement clubs located in the territory of the PFA into its national league, which is a material violation of several articles of the FIFA statutes. Such inclusion implicitly recognizes the Israeli claim to sovereignty over the settlements, which goes against international law and FIFA's obligations.





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The PFA firmly asserts that negotiations, suggestions, and a soft approach have proven ineffective in addressing these violations. The Congress' agenda, which does not include the report from FIFA's own Monitoring Committee established in 2015, further highlights the need for decisive action.

Furthermore, it is crucial to consider the safety, security, and smooth organization of events. Recent incidents involving Israeli supporters in Greece demonstrate the potential for serious incidents against supporters, players, and officials. FIFA's own statement before the Court of Arbitration for Sport acknowledged the impossibility of ensuring safety and security in certain situations.

In light of the ongoing global tensions and sentiments surrounding the situation in Gaza, there is a legitimate concern that some Football Associations may refuse to play against Israel, jeopardizing the efficient organization and smooth running of matches.

The PFA implores the Congress to take effective steps and apply the FIFA statutes to address these breaches without further delay. Failure to do so would set an unwelcome precedent and normalize violations of FIFA statutes and FIFA's human rights obligations.

The Palestine Football Association

East Jerusalem, Palestine

