

الحركة العالمية للدفاع عن الأطفال فرع فلسطين
مركز القدس للمساعدة القانونية وحقوق الإنسان
مؤسسة الضمير لرعاية الأسير وحقوق الإنسان
مركز رام الله لدراسات حقوق الإنسان
المركز الفلسطيني لمصادر حقوق المواطنة واللاجئين بديل
مركز الدفاع عن الحريات والحقوق المدنية "حريات"
الهيئة المستقلة لحقوق الانسان "ديوان المظالم" عضو مراقب



مؤسسة الحق القانون من أجل الإنسان
مركز المرأة للإرشاد القانوني والاجتماعي
مركز إنسان للديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان
مركز الميزان لحقوق الإنسان
مؤسسة الضمير لحقوق الإنسان
المركز الفلسطيني لحقوق الإنسان

Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIFA-Strasse 20,
P.O. Box 8044 Zurich, Switzerland
Attn: President Joseph S. Blatter

28 May 2015

Dear Mr. Blatter,

As the Palestinian Human Rights Organization's Council (PHROC) which include twelve independent human rights organizations in Palestine. We are writing to express our position regarding the proposal by the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) for the suspension of the Israel Football Association. This effort is a commendable example of the Palestinian leadership, through the PFA, in taking action to address the obstacles the PFA faces under the continuing Israeli occupation.

This action is in accordance with Palestine's responsibilities under the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to which Palestine acceded in 2014 without reservations. State parties to the treaty such as Palestine and Israel, as well as non-state actors such as FIFA, have responsibilities under this international treaty to protect the economic, social, and cultural rights which include "sport and games".¹

Under the ICESCR, Palestine also has an obligation as a State party "to take steps to prevent third parties from interfering in the right to take part in cultural life."² State parties also have an obligation to achieve "the full realization of the rights recognized in the Covenant" through "international assistance and cooperation."³ FIFA, as an international federation of football associations, is an exemplary venue through which to undertake this obligation. FIFA itself also has a responsibility, as a member of civil society, to effectuate rights protected by the Covenant.⁴

Although the steps that Palestine can take with regards to fulfilling its obligations are necessarily limited by the Israeli occupation. The proposal the PFA has put forward constitutes a positive step within these limitations and should be welcomed by FIFA and its members.

Yours sincerely,

¹ General Comment No. 21, of the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, para. 13.

² *Id.*, para. 48.

³ *Id.*, para. 56.

⁴ *Id.*, para. 73.

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	Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association Sahar Francis General Director		Aldameer Association for Human Rights Khalil Abu Shammala General Director
	Al-Haq Shawan Jabarin General Director		Al Mezan Center for Human Rights Issam Younis General Director
	Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights Nidal Azza General Director		Defence for Children International Palestine Section Khaled Quzmar General Director
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	Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights Issam Aruri General Director		Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies Sohaib Shareef Director
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