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Mr. Gianni Infantino
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Association
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Mr. Aleksander Čeferin
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Union of European Football
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1 October 2025

CALL TO SUSPEND ISRAELI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION FROM FIFA AND UEFA

Dear Gianni Infantino and Aleksander Čeferin,

I am writing you on behalf of Amnesty International, a global movement of more than 10 million people, to call on FIFA and UEFA to suspend the Israeli Football Association (IFA) until clubs from settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) are excluded from its leagues.

As I write, Israel continues to perpetrate genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, with over 800 athletes, players and sports officials among over 65,000 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in a deliberate campaign of wholesale devastation, forced displacement and starvation of civilians intended to destroy Palestinians in Gaza. The recent UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory is just the latest body to conclude that Israel is committing genocide, just as Amnesty concluded in December 2024.

At the same time, Israel continues to expand illegal settlements in the West Bank along with legitimising illegal outposts as part of its unlawful occupation of Palestinian territory. Amnesty has long called for businesses to withdraw from activity that supports illegal settlements because any such activity would contravene international law. In July 2024, the International Court of Justice reinforced this position by concluding that Israel's presence in the OPT is unlawful and that there is an obligation on States "to abstain from entering

into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or parts thereof which may entrench its unlawful presence in the territory".

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 has further stated that the ICJ's conclusions "place on corporate entities a prima facie responsibility to not engage and/or to withdraw totally and unconditionally from any associated dealings" that entrench Israel's unlawful presence in the OPT.

Football cannot be separated from Israel's unlawful occupation. There are at least six teams based in settlements in the OPT playing in Israeli leagues. The Israeli Football Association (IFA) is thus contributing to these violations of international law in the OPT, and their associated human rights abuses, by providing business opportunities and sports and cultural activities contributing to the sustainability of the settlements in the unlawfully occupied territory.

The participation of teams from illegal settlements in Israeli leagues is not only in violation of international law, but also of FIFA's own statutes. Article 64.2 of FIFA's statutes says that "Member associations and their clubs may not play on the territory of another member association without the latter's approval."

FIFA and UEFA's relationship with the IFA – providing funding and allowing Israeli teams to play in international tournaments, despite flouting FIFA's own statutes – means that FIFA and UEFA may also be contributing to these violations.

The current situation is intolerable. We note that the Palestinian FA's complaint from March 2024 has still not been meaningfully responded to by FIFA, while an earlier complaint was dismissed in 2015. We therefore call on FIFA and UEFA to suspend the IFA until clubs from settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are excluded from its leagues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Agnes Callamard". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Agnes" and last name "Callamard" clearly distinguishable.

Agnes Callamard
Secretary-General
Amnesty International