



BWI • Building and Wood Workers' International
BHI • Bau- und Holzarbeiter Internationale
BTI • Byggnads- och Träarbetar-Internationalen
IBB • Internationale des Travailleurs du Bâtiment et du Bois
ICM • Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera

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Open Letter to the FIFA Presidential Candidates

To: **HRH Prince Ali Al Hussein**
Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
Mr. Jérôme Champagne
Mr. Gianni Infantino
Mr. Tokyo Sexwale


On behalf of the Building and Wood Workers' International, we are writing to you regarding our concerns about the working and living conditions of the thousands of construction workers who will be building the stadiums, hotels, and other infrastructure projects related to both the 2018 World Cup in Russia and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

FIFA is currently at a crossroads and it is important that the next President is one who also puts the interest of the "other players" who are instrumental in ensuring the success of one of the most beloved global sports tournaments in the world.

As you know migrant workers in Qatar are deprived of their dignity and fundamental human rights - such as the freedom of association and freedom of movement. Migrant workers are dependent upon their employer due to the restrictive exit visa and Kafala system. In Russia, migrant workers in the building industry face lower wages, inhumane living conditions, and are often in situations of forced labour.

The hundreds of deaths and well-documented abuses of workers is known all over the world but has so far barely figured in the FIFA election debate at all. For too long the world of football has turned its blind eye to what is happening. The situation for the workers who make the World Cups possible can easily be improved if FIFA starts taking workers' and human rights issues as seriously as it does with sponsorship, licensing, sales and advertising regulations.

The beautiful game which is loved by millions of football fans want to make sure that the game is no longer tinted by human and labour rights violations. In your bid to become the next President of FIFA we strongly urge you consider the plight of more than millions of migrant construction workers that risk their lives while working under exploitative conditions in Russia and Qatar – sometimes without even earning enough to send money back home.



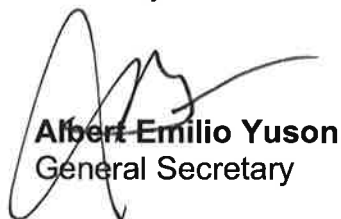
We call on FIFA to use its leverage to push all stakeholders associated to the World Cups including the Russian and Qatari governments to ensure that workers' rights are at the core of the preparations. We specifically want to make sure that the construction sites are safe and decent workers have a living wage, and that international labour standards are adhered by the host governments and construction companies.

In particular, we also believe that it is time for FIFA to make institutional changes by doing the following:


1. Adopt the principles of the ILO core conventions, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and include them in the criteria for bids by countries wishing to host the World Cup.
2. Adopt a mandatory policy of "Decent Work Stadium and Infrastructure Standards," for all contracts throughout the supply chain related to the World Cup.
3. Require host nations to include of respect for workers' rights, decent work, and binding provisions for safety and health in the "FIFA law." We also believe that mechanisms such as labour inspections need to be added as a way to monitor the implementation of these components of the FIFA law.
4. Recognize the need for independent labour inspections. BWI calls on FIFA to conduct joint labour inspections with BWI to ensure international labour rights and international standards are adhered to in Qatar.
5. Create a Human Rights Advisory Board that includes trade union representatives and an Ombudsman.
6. Require FIFA business partners including local organisers, sponsors, and media partners to adopt a Human Rights Policy Statement.

In your bid for the Presidency you have vowed to lead FIFA to change and we strongly urge you to make a real difference by putting human rights and labour rights at the core of your agenda.

Sincerely,



Albert Emilio Yuson
General Secretary



Dietmar Schäfers
Deputy President
Chair of Ad Hoc Working Group on
Sports Campaign