

P-Ib/2019/4

BY EMAIL

Mr Jibril Rajoub
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Zurich, 8 January 2019

Ref. no. E17-00017 obi (please quote in all correspondence)
Investigation proceedings - Mr Jibril Rajoub

Dear Mr Rajoub,

We refer to the above-mentioned matter.

In this regard, we would like to remind you that you are a party to the investigation proceedings for having possibly infringed the following articles of the FIFA Code of Ethics 2018 (hereinafter "FCE"), as well as their corresponding provisions in the previous editions of the FCE:

1. Art. 13: General duties;
2. Art. 14: Duty of neutrality;
3. Art. 15: Loyalty;
4. Art. 22: Discrimination and defamation;
5. Art. 23: Protection of physical and mental integrity.

Please note that, the Chairperson of the Investigatory Chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee has opened these investigation proceedings after having determined that, on the basis of a document and relevant evidence submitted by the organisation Palestinian Media Watch entitled "Kick Terror Out of Football" (hereby enclosed and referred to as "the Complaint"), there is a prima facie case that you may have committed violations of the FCE, in your position as President of the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) relating to the following:

1) Promotion and glorification of terrorism

You are accused of having personally promoted and glorified terrorism in an active (declarations made and actions undertaken as president of the PFA) and a passive manner (having permitted, as president of the PFA, the promotion and glorification of terrorism, or for not having condemned said actions). In particular:

- It is claimed that several sporting competitions (including football competitions) organised with the backing or support of the PFA and/or by yourself (listed in the Complaint) bear the names of people implicated in terrorist organisations and attacks responsible for the deaths of Israeli citizens.

- It is claimed that a series of football teams bearing the names of persons involved in acts of terrorism (listed in the Complaint) took part in football competitions organised by football clubs that were affiliated or not affiliated to the PFA, without that those concerned are sanctioned by yourself (or the PFA).
- It is also claimed that you (and the PFA) have not stated your position with regard to football competitions bearing the names of persons involved in acts of terrorism (as listed in the Complaint). The most striking example is that of a school football tournament, which, according to the Complaint, bore the name of a young Palestinian who had stabbed two young Israelis seriously wounding them, and who is serving a sentence in prison for counts of attempted murder.
- It is claimed that, through your actions and declarations (as listed in the Complaint), you have promoted acts of terrorism by honouring as heroes persons involved in such acts of terrorism and murder, and by supporting the wave of terrorist attacks committed in Israel between September 2015 and mid-2016, when allegedly 40 people were killed and dozens of others were wounded.

2) Incitement to hatred and violence

It is claimed that, as president of the PFA, you have incited hatred and violence during a period when acts of terrorism were being perpetrated in Israel (October 2015 - 2016). Below are some examples of the declarations that are attributed to you in this respect (complete list of such declarations to be found in the Complaint):

- "We still believe in all forms of the struggle. No one has removed the rifle from the equation. However, for us, the struggle is a means, and the end is freedom and independence."
- "If Hamas want to kidnap soldiers, let them kidnap soldiers. Let them kidnap [them]. Let them kidnap if they [the Israelis] don't want to release prisoners, but want them as prisoners forever, so [the prisoners] will come out as ghosts and skeletons. Israelis need to understand that the pattern of kidnapping is clear for them. Kidnapping is the language they understand. On the contrary, we encourage them [Hamas]."

3) Discriminatory/denigratory statements and prohibiting the use of football as a bridge to peace)

It is alleged that, in your position as president of the PFA, you have publicly denied the right of Israel to exist as a state and prohibited all peace-building projects aimed at normalising relations between Palestinians and Israelis, in relation to sports and football in particular, refusing normalisation itself, considering those who take part in peace-building activities criminals and threatening them with sanctions. Furthermore, you are accused of having used discriminatory and racist language when speaking about Israeli nationals, allegedly comparing them to "Satan" and Nazis. In this regard, various declarations are attributed to you, the most important of which are summarised below (full list of such declarations to be found in the Complaint):

- a) Declarations prohibiting contact with Israeli athletes and the use of sport for peace-building purposes