

**Mr. Gianni Infantino**

President of FIFA

**Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

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June 3, 2018

**Dear Sir,**

**Re: Complaint against the Palestinian Football Association  
and its President Jibril Rajoub**

On May 28, 2018, Wafa, the official Palestinian Authority news agency, reported that Jibril Rajoub, president of the Palestinian Football Association (PFA), had written to you, the South American Football Confederation and also to UEFA to protest the upcoming friendly football match between Israel and Argentina's National teams. According to the report, Rajoub "expressed deep concern over the match being held in occupied Jerusalem."

Assuming the report is accurate, it reflects Rajoub and the PFA's continued disregard for the decision made by FIFA's Council in October 2017. It further reflects, that in breach of FIFA's Statutes, Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Rajoub and the PFA are determined to continue in their attempts to politicize football and to drag FIFA, UEFA and CONMEBOL into that conflict.

This, in and of itself, should be unacceptable to FIFA and should be dealt with with the utmost severity.

However, lurking beneath the surface of Rajoub's letter is a much harsher reality.

According to the report, Rajoub's objection to the friendly match was that it is due to take place in Jerusalem.

It is important to stress that the pitch on which the game is to be played is situated in an area of Jerusalem that has been under Israeli jurisdiction since **1948**. Even if this point were relevant, and we would argue that it is not, it would mean that Rajoub is objecting to Israel's national team hosting a foreign national team in an area of Israel that is indisputably under Israeli control.

Unfortunately, this opinion, which denies Israel's very right to exist is not uncommon for either Rajoub or the PFA.

Paradoxically, the Wafa report continues quoting Rajoub saying that “Israel... has politicized the sport in a way that contradicts the moral standards and international values that determine the principles of the sport.”

Unfortunately, Rajoub and the PFA’s brazen approach and open hostility towards Israel and the Israeli Football Association is a direct product of the inaction of FIFA and FIFA’s Disciplinary Committee.

In March 2017, Palestinian Media Watch submitted a detailed complaint to FIFA’s Disciplinary Committee against both Rajoub personally and the PFA. In the complaint we provided unequivocal evidence that the PFA and Mr. Rajoub regularly and gravely breach the FIFA Statutes by **promoting and glorifying terrorism; inciting hatred and violence; promoting racism; and preventing the use of the game of football in order to build a bridge for peace.**

Shamefully, over a year has passed since we submitted our complaint, and to the best of our knowledge, the Disciplinary Committee has still not dealt with it.

If Rajoub and the PFA are not brought to task and reprimanded for its previous and current breaches of FIFA’s Statutes, Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Code, then one can only reasonably assume that FIFA itself condones his reprehensible putrid actions.

In order to put an end to his continued aggression, and in order to avoid the politicization of football that Rajoub insists upon, it is time for FIFA to take action against him and the PFA.

Yours sincerely,



**Maurice Hirsch, Adv.**  
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Copies: **CONMEBOL President, Mr. DOMINGUEZ Alejandro**  
**UEFA President, Mr CEFERIN Aleksander**