



HAKHEL-IJC-הקהל
הקונגרס הישראלי יהודי (חל"צ)
The Israeli Jewish Congress (NPO)

3rd May, 2017

Mr. Gianni Infantino (FIFA President)

FIFA-Strasse 20, Zurich - Switzerland

By email: guy-philippe.mathieu@fifa.org

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CC: **Mr. Tokyo Sexwale** (Chairman, FIFA Monitoring Committee on Israel – Palestine)

Dear President Infantino,

"Football can inspire communities and break down barriers. Football is for all. FIFA believes that everybody has the right to play football free from discrimination or prejudice and we are striving to ensure that this is the case."

These words are taken directly from the FIFA Mission.

Yet, next week, at your annual FIFA Council (May 9th) and FIFA Congress (May 10-11th), member states will vote on a Palestinian-led campaign to ban the Israeli Football Association from FIFA.

Peace, like football, requires two sides.

We strongly believe in the capacity of sport, and particularly through football, the most widely played game in the world, as a vehicle to promote tolerance, friendship, peace and sportsmanship.

This campaign however, to single out, condemn and exclude Israel from world football, defies not only the FIFA Mission "Football is for all", but will only promote hatred, breed intolerance and attack the State of Israel, the sole democratic nation in our region.

The legendary Pelé, famously described football as "the beautiful game." Let us work together to maintain that, to utilize the power of football to bring the Israeli and Palestinian parties closer together and promote joint peace initiatives, instead of singling out, attacking and banning Israel.

We ask you to please use your voice and leadership to speak out and give this campaign of hate against the Jewish state a 'red card.'

Yours sincerely,

Vladimir Sloutsker
President, The Israeli-Jewish Congress (IJC)

** The Israeli-Jewish Congress is an independent Israeli-based organization devoted to strengthening the bond between Israel & Jewish communities in the Diaspora, as well as fighting racism, intolerance & Antisemitism.*