

# BIRD

BAHRAIN INSTITUTE FOR  
RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY



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Michael J. Garcia  
FIFA Ethics Committee  
FIFA-Strasse 20  
P.O. Box 8044  
Zurich

Dear Mr. Garcia,

Thank you for your response to my letter.

To the contrary of your arguments distancing FIFA jurisdiction to rule on this matter, the Bahrain Football Association (BFA) and its former president are institutions that are governed by FIFA Statutes and the FIFA Code of Ethics. This is expressly stated under the FIFA Statute definition number 10 which states that the rules are applicable to all officials and players including every 'board member, committee member and any other person' responsible for matters in FIFA, a Confederation, Association, League or club'. This also includes individuals that have left their posts after committing a violation (Article 56 (1)). Considering the former President of the BFA is now president of the Asian Football Confederation—a body also governed by FIFA—he is also caught under the provision.

Earlier precedents have been set by the FIFA Ethics Committee that indicate FIFA is well within its jurisdiction to investigate claims brought against the BFA.

In 2013, you opened an investigation into South Africa on alleged cases of match manipulation. The jurisdictional analysis that you argued for this investigation was under the FIFA Code of Ethics provision that places authority upon the Ethics Committee to investigate "if associations fail to prosecute potential breaches of that code."

In 2010, FIFA sanctioned the Greek Football Association for failing to obey FIFA Statutes and sanctioned the body for the alleged intervention of the government in the Greek football.

In 2010, FIFA imposed sanctions upon the Nigerian Football Federation because of government intervention and as a result, Nigeria was banned from playing at an international level.

In 2009, FIFA sanctioned Brunei Darussalam for government intervention in the country's football federation.

In 2009, FIFA imposed sanctions upon the Iraqi Football Federation as a result of government intervention in the sport.

In 2008, FIFA places sanctions upon the Ethiopian Football Federation because of government intervention

In 2007, FIFA sanctioned the Kuwait Football Federation including senior national team players and clubs because of government intervention in the electoral process. Kuwait was banned from competing at an international level.

These cases illustrate that there are both jurisprudential and factual jurisdictional clauses for you to launch an investigation into the Bahrain Football Association for rights abuses against football players and clubs. Moreover, these rights abuses were in collaboration with government officials that have intervened directly in Bahraini football. FIFA has a statutory duty to protect the integrity and reputation of football in Bahrain and to prevent unethical practices.

The issues that I have mentioned in my previous email have moreover continued to this day and will continue to take place if you do not take direct action against the Bahrain Football Association and its former president. On 7 January 2014 football player Hakeem Al Oraibi was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for charges of burning a police station. Hakeem was playing football in a televised football match when the incident—that he has been blamed for—took place. Football players Bahr Mohammed Jawad, Hassan Abdullah Marhoum and Qassem Habeeb Abdullah were also detained in December 2013. Furthermore, Bahrain has failed to both investigate rights abuses and to prosecute rights abusers for incidents against football players and clubs that have been ongoing since 2011.

I urge you to reconsider your decision not to launch an investigation into the actions of the Bahrain Football Association that are in clear breach of the FIFA Code of Ethics.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy