

MUSA HASSAN BILITY

31 July, 2020

THE MEMBERS
FIFA COUNCIL
FIFA-STRASSE 20,
P.O. BOX 8044 ZURICH,
SWITZERLAND

Dear Sir/ Madam

RE: AFTERMATH OF CRIMINAL INDICTMENTS AGAINST FIFA PRESIDENT GIANNI INFANTINO IN SWITZERLAND

Yesterday, it came to pass that criminal proceedings against a sitting President of FIFA has been opened by the Swiss Government over claims of secretly consorting with a Federal judicial official with the aim of subverting justice or procuring a desired outcome in certain football cases that were being investigated and prosecuted by the Swiss Federal Government.

In an official statement sent out subsequently by FIFA, Mr. Infantino seeks to make light of this indictment despite its obvious seriousness.

Immediately after the criminal proceedings was announced, Mr. Infantino participated in a video call with the panicked English-speaking Presidents of African member associations where he strived to reassure them that the status quo at FIFA would remain and that he was not going to resign from his position.

Nothing underscores the seriousness of the allegations against Mr. Infantino and his co-conspirators in the Cantonal and Federal justice system, than the fact that a special prosecutor had to be appointed to look specifically into the allegations.

The scenario is extremely complicated for FIFA and couldn't have come at a worse time. For one, its Presidents' credibility has been tarnished by the opening of criminal proceedings against him at a time when the global economy is in the midst of a COVID19-induced recession and there remains at least another full year before footballing can revert to pre-COVID levels.

FIFA therefore cannot afford to gamble its reputation and commercial prospects now by playing a dangerous political game of indecision or division.

About 5 years ago, when FIFA had independent Ethics, Governance and Audit & compliance committees we witnessed for ourselves the suspension of top FIFA leaders including its then President Sepp Blatter and UEFA President Michel Platini following the revelations and allegations of possible complicity in corrupt or criminal conduct.

Later in 2018, the FIFA adjudicatory Chamber set aside its own deputy chairman Sundra Rajoo, after it was announced that his country Malaysia had opened up an investigation against him through its Anti-corruption commission.

Within a week of this happening, Mr. Rajoo resigned from his FIFA position.



Elsewhere, Fernando Mijan, then Argentine vice-chairman of the FIFA Appeals Committee was recorded having a conversation with the President of a top Argentine club about tampering with yellow and red card records, in order to enable 2 players to be eligible to take part in a critical Copa Libertadores match.

He quietly resigned from all football positions both at FIFA and back home in Argentina.

It is therefore possible to conclude that in FIFA there has existed a culture where when senior members get caught up in criminal investigations, scandals or indictments, they immediately vacate their positions in order not to taint the institution.

However, we have witnessed a shift in this culture at FIFA over the last few years, since the shameful arrest of CAF President Ahmad Ahmad in Paris, France on 5th June 2019.

French authorities even approached the FIFA Ethics committee (FEC) seeking corroboration of their own evidence with those in a dossier lodged with the FEC by a former CAF SG.

The World remains baffled as to why Ahmad Ahmad was never compelled to resign from all his football positions in the face of such revelations. Instead, a controversial mission led by FIFA SG Fatma Samoura was sent to Africa to manage CAF in a bid to shield Ahmad.

This FIFA mission discovered the embezzlement of \$24 million of CAF funds when it conducted a forensic audit of CAF books, another fact that has been swept under the carpet by the FIFA President.

To date, the FIFA Ethics committee continues to sit on the Ahmad file, opting instead to dispense with matters brought before it much later.

This appears to be the playbook that Gianni Infantino wishes to use in his own case, desperate not to relinquish his position and hopeful to use the ambivalence of a few to claim that he has the legitimacy to retain the FIFA Presidency.

FIFA is a viable concept which Infantino wishes to jeopardize by refusing to resign his position. His few supporters are happy to allow the organization to sink, just as long as their patron remains in the Presidency.

It is for this reason that the FIFA President's first impulse was not to call members of the Bureau or the Council to explain to them the implications of the criminal proceedings, rather it was to arrogantly call individual member associations of his African "base", something that should terrify to everyone on the Council.

Gianni Infantino must be forced to step aside or resign immediately from the FIFA Presidency, his continued clinging onto the position casts the organization in extremely bad light and should not be tolerated.

Yours Sincerely

MUSA HASSAN BILITY
FMR. CAF EXCO MEMBER
FMR. LIBERIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

