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#GameOverIsrael: No Sport for War Criminals; European Football Federations Must Boycott Israel

A broad global coalition of human rights organizations, football fan associations, former football players, advocacy groups, and influencers launched a new campaign today calling on football federations in Belgium, England, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Scotland, and Spain to boycott the Israeli national team, Israeli club teams, and ban Israeli players from participating in domestic competitions.

The #GameOverIsrael campaign officially launches today with coordinated protest actions across the nine countries, demanding that federations take a principled stand against Israel's ongoing assault on Palestinian life and infrastructure, including sports facilities and athletes in Gaza. Ordinary people across the world can join the chorus and demand accountability by joining a local protest and applying pressure on the football federations, who run the game they love and support, to take immediate action.

Richard Falk, President of the Gaza Tribunal, international law expert and former UN special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, said:

"Israel has for many years used culture and sports to whitewash their violations of international law and human rights and sporting governing bodies have been shamefully complicit during this genocide. It's perfectly legitimate and morally imperative to demand that football federations across Europe and the world boycott Israel. Normalcy is complicity in this abnormal time of prolonged genocide."

Craig Mokhiber, former United Nations Human Rights official, and a specialist in international human rights law, said:

"We are living through a dark moment in history in which a people, locked in the chains of apartheid, are being exterminated before our eyes. None of us will be able to say we did not know. Inaction in such circumstances is complicity. But we do have the power to act. Sport is a powerful social force. And football, 'the beautiful game,' can be a powerful channel for action. Demand that your football federation, and all federations, boycott Israel. Keep football beautiful."

Across Europe, football federations and national leaders are beginning to act — but symbolic gestures are not enough. Last month, the Italian Football Coaches' Association [urged](#) the Italian Football Federation to demand Israel's suspension from competitions. In Spain, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez [announced](#) nine new measures to stop the genocide in Gaza, including an arms embargo and a ban of entry to Spanish territory on all individuals involved in war crimes in Gaza. The Spanish football federation must follow suit and boycott Israel.

The Norwegian Football Federation [pledged](#) ticket revenue from its upcoming FIFA 2026 qualifier match against Israel on Oct. 11 to humanitarian aid in Gaza. Donations won't stop Israel's bombs from falling. Recent estimates indicate that well over half a million Palestinians [have been killed](#) by Israeli airstrikes, forced starvation, and siege — an estimated 380,000 of which were children under the age of five. It's time for European football federations to join the global solidarity movement.

Ashish Prashar, political strategist, former advisor to the Middle East Peace Envoy, and Game Over Israel campaign manager, said:

“Our position is clear; Israel has no place in football. International human rights defenders and civil society will not abandon the legitimate demand for football federations to step into the gap left by their governing bodies and boycott Israel. It’s our collective responsibility to work together — fans, unions, the public — and flood our federations demanding they act now to boycott Israel and send a message that those committing genocide are not welcome on the pitch.”

Love Rovers Hate Racism, a Shamrock Rovers FC fan group, said:

“We are approaching the two-year mark of the genocide in Gaza. What more is there to say? Why haven’t football federations boycotted Israel? They’re supposed to represent football and the fans. It is unfathomable, unconscionable. They should be ashamed. We demand they act now and boycott Israel and get them off our pitches.”

The campaign is advised by Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah, British-Palestinian Plastic Surgeon and founder of the Ghassan Abu Sittah Children’s Fund, Abed Ayoub, director of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and Craig Mokhiber, former UN human rights official, and supported by a growing list of organizations, including [ADC](#), [CODEPINK](#), [The Gaza Tribunal](#), [Health Workers 4 Palestine](#), [the Hind Rajab Foundation](#), and [Tech for Palestine](#).

Prominent individual supporters include Irish actor Liam Cunningham, Irish performer and activist Tadhg Hickey, British journalist and author Matt Kennard, former English football player and BBC commentator Gary Lineker, British surgeon and activist Nick Maynard, economist and former finance minister of Greece Yanis Varoufakis, British artist and performer Bobby Vylan, who have all endorsed the call for football to uphold its ethical responsibilities.

For press inquiries or interview requests, please contact:

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Visit our website to learn more about the campaign: <https://www.gameoverisrael.com>

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#GameOverIsrael: This campaign is powered by a coalition of ordinary people - organizers, activists, humanitarians, and football fans - fighting for justice, accountability and freedom for Palestine.

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