

GAME OVER ISRAEL



ATHLETES FOR PEACE



**THE HIND RAJAB
FOUNDATION**

Dear President Čeferin,

November 12, 2025

"Football does not belong to anyone. Or rather, it belongs to everyone, because football is part of our heritage."

We are writing to you as members of the UEFA football community, deeply disturbed by the lack of moral action taken by UEFA regarding the suspension of Israel from European football.

We are acutely aware of UEFA's responsibilities in keeping with the imperatives of international law to suspend Israel and ensure the organisation and the sporting community it governs does not participate in the normalisation of genocide, apartheid, and crimes against humanity. Such action is essential to ending complicity and to preventing personal and collective reputational damage to UEFA, its officials, and the football community at large.

Further, the current welcome that Israel receives in European football risks severing the sport from its heart and soul. Football belongs to humanity, not to those who would destroy theirs and others.

Regarding UEFA's responsibilities under international law, Amnesty International noted the following in an October 1st letter to the same:

In July 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion that declared that Israel's presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful and must be rapidly terminated... The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 has concluded that the ICJ's conclusions 'place on corporate entities a prima facie responsibility to not engage and/or to withdraw totally and unconditionally from any associated dealings' that entrench Israel's unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Further, the letter referenced the 12-month deadline imposed by the ICJ upon the State of Israel to withdraw from illegal settlements in the West Bank and upon states, companies and institutions which have any legitimising dealings with the State of Israel to sever their relationships with the State of Israel as long as it remains in breach of fundamental legal obligations and universal human values. That deadline passed as of September 18, 2025, and still:

"There are at least six teams based in settlements in the OPT playing in Israeli leagues. The Israeli Football Association (IFA) is thus contributing to these violations of international law in

the OPT, and their associated human rights abuses, by providing business opportunities and sports and cultural activities contributing to the sustainability of the settlements in the unlawfully occupied territory.”

Additionally, the participation of teams from illegal settlements in Israeli football leagues is a breach of fundamental principles of international law. UEFA’s relationship with the IFA – providing funding and allowing Israeli teams to play in international tournaments – means that UEFA may also be facilitating these violations and may themselves be accountable.

We would also like to remind you that on September 16, 2025, the U.N. Commission of Inquiry confirmed that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians. They joined numerous human rights organisations, experts and other bodies in naming it such. We would also like to highlight The Gaza Tribunal’s Jury of Conscience Final Statement, which found the following:

... a coherent and consistent pattern of exterminatory violence in the intentional and targeted destruction of homes, water supplies, schools, hospitals, clinics, universities, cultural and religious institutions, agricultural land, and natural ecosystems. The weaponization of hunger, denial of medical care, and forced displacement are not collateral damages of war—they are instruments of collective punishment of the entire population and of genocide. They are not justified by any claim of military objectives.

The Jury affirms that Israel is perpetrating an ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza, within—and enabled by—a broader settler-colonial apartheid regime rooted in the supremacist ideology of Zionism. This campaign is inseparable from over a century-long project targeting Palestinians across all of Palestine and in exile. The root causes of genocide lie in a racist, supremacist ideology—Zionism—that underpins a system aiming to dispossess, dominate, and erase Palestinians, supported by an oppressive neo-colonial power structure led by the United States and its allies, and shielded by international complicity, including from many Arab and Muslim governments.

In light of these confirmations and findings, it is urgent in our view that UEFA fulfil its legal and moral responsibilities and immediately suspend Israel from European football.

No shared venue, stage, or arena in international civil society should welcome a regime that commits genocide, apartheid, and other crimes against humanity. Israel’s continued impunity for such crimes will only be ended by the weight of collective conscientious action, including measures to block their entry to sporting or cultural events and activities.

It is well-known that football governance bodies, such as UEFA, have historically suspended states from football for egregious violations of international law – apartheid South Africa, post-war Germany, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and more recently, Russia. We urge you to follow international law and moral precedent and suspend Israel immediately.

Sincerely,

Game Over Israel

Athletes 4 Peace

The Gaza Tribunal

The Hind Rajab Foundation