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via e-mail in advance: segald@hrw.org

Zurich, 04 June 2012

Workers' rights in Qatar

Dear Ms Whitson,

On behalf of FIFA President, Joseph S. Blatter, we would like to thank you for your letter of 10 May, as well as for the extract of the research findings that HRW will soon publish in connection with workers' rights in Qatar.

We acknowledge your understanding of our organisation's responsibilities and very much appreciate your conviction that FIFA and the FIFA World Cup can play an important role in addressing social issues and improving living and working conditions in the countries hosting the event.

Through its Corporate Social Responsibility programmes, FIFA has been engaged and working with the United Nations, NGOs and development institutions worldwide to further social development and building a better future. Through our Football for Hope initiative, we have also been supporting programmes that use football as a tool to tackle the most challenging issues of our days worldwide.

As you correctly point out in your letter, FIFA has already started dialogue with representatives from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI) with regards to labour rights' issues in the host countries of the three upcoming FIFA World Cups. The summary of the discussions as well as the concerns expressed by those organisations have been shared with the respective Local Organising Committees.

Since then, we also briefly discussed with HRW Director, Development & Outreach Zurich, Brigitte Schmid about the possibility of arranging a meeting with HRW in the near future. As mentioned in our e-mail of 3 May, we would be glad of hearing from HRW regarding the human rights situation in the countries hosting future FIFA World Cups. Furthermore, we agreed that a meeting between our organisations would only be possible as of the last quarter of 2012. We will wait until August/September to define a date for such a meeting and be pleased of welcoming HRW at the Home of FIFA.

While we recognise the significance and urgency of your upcoming report, it is important to mention that our limited human resources are currently mainly focusing on the preparations for a very complex FIFA World Cup in Brazil. Therefore, we thank you for your understanding and patience regarding a more in-depth discussion with you being only possible at the end of the year.

We wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Yours sincerely,
FIFA



Federico Addiechi
Head of Corporate Social Responsibility

Cc: Brigitte Schmid, HRW