

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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October 13, 2016

President Ary Graça
Fédération Internationale de Volleyball
Château Les Tourelles
Ch. Edouard-Sandoz 2-4
1006 Lausanne Switzerland

RE: Action on Ban of Women at FIVB Volleyball Tournaments in Iran

Dear President Graça,

We are following up on our letter on May 31, 2016, regarding the ongoing discriminatory barriers that prevent women from attending FIVB tournaments in Iran. We ask the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) to investigate this long-standing problem in the follow-up to your World Congress this month and to announce a strategy for ending this unacceptable discrimination. In a matter of weeks, the FIVB will announce host countries for its 2017 World League. The FIVB should not grant Iran the right to host the next World League tournament unless Iran demonstrates it has put an end to restrictions on women's ability to purchase tickets to and attend all matches.

We attach a screenshot of the FIVB's Persian website which stated women could not purchase tickets for the July 2016 games in Tehran due to "limited space for female spectators" – in apparent violation of the FIVB's non-discrimination clause in its own constitution (Section 1.5.4).

In the months before the World League matches in July, women in Iran and Human Rights Watch warned the FIVB that their Persian website plainly said there were no seats for women. A screenshot taken at the precise moment tickets went on sale for the Iran-Serbia match reads, "Women quota are finished," raising serious concerns that the ticket sale may have never opened to women. The effect was that, once again, only men could buy tickets to FIVB matches in the 12,000-seat Azadi Stadium.

In a statement to Human Rights Watch, the FIVB wrote that 5,000 tickets for the opening matches "sold out in five minutes, including 466 attributed to a stand for women only." However, photos from the tournament show two-thirds of empty seats in the women's section.

Moreover, the Iranian news website *Tabnak News Agency* [reported](#) that these tickets were not “sold out” but were never put on sale to the public at all – reserved instead for wives of Iranian officials or female Iranian officials, Iranian female athletes, and in some cases the wives of foreign diplomats.

Our concerns were heightened by the reports of blatant discrimination at the [Kish Island Beach Volleyball Open](#) in February, despite an earlier statement by the FIVB that it had assurances from Iranian tournament organizers that matches would “be open to fans from all age groups and genders. This will include families and women.”

At the Rio Olympics, Iranian women were able to freely watch volleyball and cheer their national team. It was not at all surprising that some used their right to protest to draw attention to the discrimination the FIVB has [failed to address](#) for far too long by not insisting the Iran Volleyball Federation honor gender equality rules.

In light of the FIVB’s continued failure to effectively confront this blatant discrimination against Iran’s women, Human Rights Watch calls on your organization to pledge that that Iranian women will be able to freely attend any future tournaments hosted in Iran, and that Iran will lose the right to host all FIVB international tournaments in 2017 unless this happens.

The effective ongoing exclusion of most women spectators from FIVB events in Iran is in barefaced violation of the FIVB’s “fundamental principles” and a stain on the federation’s record. It should be brought to an end.

We hope that you will address this urgent matter in the wake of your Congress, and look forward to discussing remedial steps with you or your staff.

Sincerely,



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Appendix

Screen Shot of Persian-Language FIVB Website Excluding Women (May 2016)

سامانه عضویت و فروش بلیط فدراسیون والیبال

ساعت: ۱۱:۴۰:۰۸

اطلاعیها

- به علت متقاضی زیاد و گنجایش محدود ورزشگاه، بلیط به کسانی که زودتر به سامانه مراجعه کنند فروخته می‌شود. لذا از همه متقاضیانی که نمی‌توانند بلیط خریداری کنند، عذرخواهی می‌کنیم.
- به دلیل استقبال بسیار زیاد علاقه‌مندان تیم ملی والیبال، به طور تقریبی از هر ۱۰۰ کاربری که در روز بلیط‌فروشی به سایت مراجعه می‌کنند، تنها به ۵ کاربر بلیط می‌رسد. برای مثال، در بازی دوم ایران و لهستان قسمت اول بلیطها در ۱۵ ثانیه، قسمت دوم در ۱۳ ثانیه، قسمت سوم در ۸ ثانیه، قسمت چهارم در ۹ ثانیه و قسمت پنجم در ۸ ثانیه به طور کامل توسط کاربران در فرآیند خرید قرار گرفت.
- **به دلیل محدود بودن بخش‌های مربوط به خانها، تا اطلاع ثانوی، خرید بلیط خانها به دلیل تکمیل ظرفیت، انجام نخواهد شد.**
- برای پیدا کردن پاسخ سوالات خود به قسمت سوالات متداول مراجعه کنید.
- حتما قبل از مراجعه به ورزشگاه از طریق رهگیری بلیط از کامل بودن فرآیند خرید مطمئن شوید.
- در صورت خرید بلیط موفق، حتما در روز مسابقه با در دست داشتن کارت عضویت سامانه و یا اصل کارت ملی حداقل دو ساعت قبل از شروع مسابقه در ورزشگاه حضور داشته باشید.
- در روز مسابقه تطبیق چهره با کارت ملی با عضویت انجام می‌شود. لذا دارنده کارت ملی با کارت عضویت خود باید به ورزشگاه مراجعه کند و واگذاری کارت ملی با کارت عضویت، مجاز نبوده و از ورود افراد مذکور، جلوگیری می‌شود.
- به هیچ وجه، هیچ بلیطی در روز مسابقه در ورزشگاه به فروش نمی‌رسد. تمام بلیطها از طریق اینترنت و قبل از روز مسابقه فروخته می‌شود. از دوست‌داران عزیز تیم ملی والیبال تقاضا می‌کنیم در صورتی که بلیط اینترنتی تهیه نکردمانند، به هیچ وجه به ورزشگاه مراجعه نکنند.
- افراد دارای کارت عضویت، از تخفیف ۱۰ درصدی در خرید بلیط برخوردارند.
- لطفا تنها از یک تب مرورگر خود استفاده کنید و در هیچ یک از صفحات سامانه از کلیدهای Back و FS استفاده نکنید.
- در صورت بروز مشکلات احتمالی و نیاز به پشتیبانی، با آدرس ایمیل support@faasaa.ir مکاتبه کنید.

سوالات متداول

رهگیری بلیط

خرید بلیط

Translation of relevant text:

“As the designated seats for female spectators are limited, currently we do not sell tickets to women as the capacity has already been reached.”