HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor New York, NY 10118-3299 Tel: 212-290-4700 Fax: 212-736-1300

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA DIVISION

Sarah Leah Whitson. Executive Director

Eric Goldstein, Deputy Director Joe Stork, Deputy Director Ahmed Benchemsi, Advocacy and Communications

Director

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kathleen Peratis, Co-chair Asli Bali, Co-chair Bruce Rabb, Officer Gary G. Sick, Officer Gamal M. Abouali Salah Al Hejailan Abdul-Ghani Al-Iryani Ahmed Al-Mukhaini Ghanim Al-Naiiar Lisa Anderson Shaul Bakhash David Bernstein Robert L. Bernstein Nathan Brown Paul Chevigny Ahmad Deek Hanaa Edwar Bahey El Din Hassar Hassan Elmasry Mansour Farhang Loubna Freih Georges **Aeyal Gross** Amr Hamzawy Asos Hardi Shawan Jabarin Marina Pinto Kaufman Youssef Khlat Azza Kamel Maghur Ahmed Mansoon Stephen P. Marks Habib Nassar Abdelaziz Nouavdi Nabeel Rajab Vicki Riskin **Charles Shamas** Sid Sheinberg Sussan Tahmasebi Mustapha Tlili

HIIMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Ferras Zalt

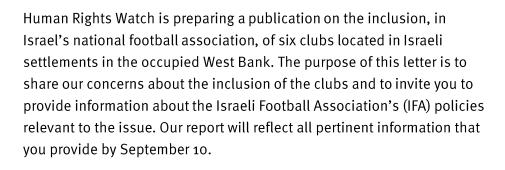
Kenneth Roth, Executive Director Michele Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Development and Global initiatives Nicholas Dawes, Deputy Executive Director, Communications

lain Levine, Deputy Executive Director, Program Chuck Lustig, Deputy Executive Director, Operations Walid Ayoub, Information Technology Director Emma Daly, Communications Director Barbara Guglielmo, Finance and Administration Director

Babatunde Olugboji, Deputy Program Director Dinah PoKempner, General Counsel Tom Porteous, Deputy Program Director James Ross, Legal and Policy Director Joe Saunders, Deputy Program Director Frances Sinha, Human Resources Director August 28, 2016

Mr. Ofer Eini Chair Israel Football Association

Dear Mr. Eini,



Human Rights Watch (HRW) is an independent, non-governmental organization that monitors and reports on human rights in 90 countries around the world. All of our reporting is available at www.hrw.org.

Human Rights Watch believes that allowing these six clubs to continue playing in the Israeli football association, from within Israeli settlements in the West Bank, violates the human rights responsibilities to which FIFA has committed.

In January, HRW published a report, <u>Occupation</u>, <u>Inc</u>., analyzing business activities in Israeli settlements located in the occupied West Bank, through the lens of the U.N. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Our research indicates that business activity in Israeli settlements inherently contributes to and benefits from serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. For that reason, we recommend that businesses cease all settlement-related activities, including locating activities in settlements, contracting for services in settlements and supporting settlements and settlement related-activities.

We have researched the six clubs playing in the Israeli Football Association (IFA), whose official, approved fields are located in Israeli settlements: Ariel Indoor Football Club (futsal) (Ariel), Ariel Municipal Football Club (Ariel), Beitar Giv'at Zeev Shabi (Giv'at Zeev), Beitar Ma'aleh



www.hrw.org

Adumim (Ma'aleh Adumim), Hapo'el Jordan Valley (Tomer), and Hapoel Oranit (Oranit). We note that at least one football field, approved by IFA judges applying FIFA rules, is built on land that is owned by a Palestinian family who can no longer use or access it. In all cases, the fields are built on land that, whether public or private, belongs to Palestinians and can, under the international rules regarding belligerent occupation, only be used for their benefit or for Israeli military needs. Palestinians are not allowed to enter Israeli settlements, except as laborers who require special permits.

We would like to ask:

- 1. Is the IFA familiar with the U.N. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? If so, has it taken steps to implement the Guiding Principles? Does IFA consider itself bound by FIFA's human rights policies?
- 2. Does the IFA have policies or regulations on where IFA clubs may play their games? If so, what are they?
- 3. Please send us any membership agreements, contracts or other documents regarding the membership of the six clubs mentioned above in the IFA.

Please send your written response by September 10, 2016, so that we can include it in our publication. We of course welcome any additional comments or responses you may wish to send, and we will reflect them in our upcoming publication.

I thank you in advance for your kind cooperation, and I welcome a chance to meet in person, as well, in order to discuss these issues. I will call to follow up, and I can be reached in the meantime or how when the company of the co

Sincerely, Bau Bashi

Sari Bashi

Israel and Palestine Country Director Middle East and North Africa

Human Rights Watch