FIFA

Zurich, 18 May 2018
SG/fad/agr

Re: Oyub Titiev

Dear signatories of the letter to FIFA President Infantino of 27 April 2018,

Thank you for your letter of 27 April 2018, in which you raise concerns about the detention of Mr. Oyub Titiev, head of Memorial's office in Grozny, and ask for FIFA's intervention. Given that the administration is responsible to implement FIFA's human rights commitments, President Infantino asked me to respond to you directly.

Let me start by reaffirming FIFA's strong commitment to implement its human rights responsibilities in accordance with article 3 of the FIFA Statutes, FIFA's Human Rights Policy and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. As you note in your letter, this includes a commitment to respect and strive to promote the protection of all internationally recognised human rights. In that respect, FIFA values the important work done by human rights defenders such as Mr. Titiev and yourselves and is, in accordance with paragraph 11 of its human rights policy, committed to respect and help protect the rights of everyone who is working to advance human rights in relation to FIFA's activities.

It is FIFA's view that, as a matter of principle, human rights defenders should be able to perform their work freely and without fear of reprisals. Therefore, and even though we have no indication that the detention of Mr. Titiev is linked to FIFA's own operations or the 2018 FIFA World Cup, FIFA is deeply concerned about the situation of Mr. Titiev. As in any such case, it is in our view of paramount importance that Mr. Titiev is granted a fair trial in accordance with international standards.

FIFA's leadership continues to be personally invested in engagements on the situation of Mr. Titiev and we hope that a solution can be found in the near future.

I thank you for your important work to promote respect and protection of human rights.

Yours sincerely,
FIFA

Fatma Samoura
FIFA Secretary General

Cc: FIFA President

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