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INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

Blatter must come clean on actions to improve working conditions in Qatar at FIFA Executive Committee meeting in Brazil

Members of 27 strong FIFA Executive Committee warned to keep workers' rights on agenda

Brussels, 5 November 2013 (ITUC OnLine): FIFA President Sepp Blatter should give a detailed report to next months Executive Committee meeting in Brazil about what FIFA has done in the two months since it finally acknowledged the problems facing workers constructing World Cup infrastructure in Qatar.

Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation said after two years of inaction, every month that goes by means more workers will lose their lives in Qatar's World Cup infrastructure programme. FIFA should use the 4 -5 December meeting in Brazil to fully inform the public about what action it is taking so that confidence can begin to be restored.

Members of FIFA's powerful Executive Committee are being pressured to keep the plight of workers in Qatar by supporters of the global campaign www.rerunthevote.org

Public outrage about conditions in Qatar forced FIFA to acknowledge the problem of workers' rights in Qatar at their last Executive Committee meeting.

The ITUC estimates 4000 workers could die building World Cup infrastructure by 2022.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter has said that "FIFA cannot interfere with the labour rights of any country, but we cannot ignore them."

"It is shameful that FIFA continues to distance itself from taking any real action in Qatar despite FIFA inspired worker laws evident in other countries hosting the World Cup. FIFA and its local organising committee in Qatar have the power to improve the conditions for 1.3 million workers in Qatar" said Sharan Burrow.

Thousands of supporters of the ITUC backed campaign www.rerunthevote.org

are contacting the 27 members of the FIFA Executive Committee asking them to:

- Keep the issue of workers' rights in Qatar on the Executive Committee meeting agenda;
- Investigate the deaths of workers in Qatar;
- Demand joint inspections with trade unions of Qatar's labour camps and worksites.

Members of FIFA's Executive Committee which controversially awarded Qatar the right to host the World Cup are expressing concern about the situation.

Northern Ireland's Jim Boyce, Jordan's Prince Ali bin al-Hussein and Germany's Theo Zwanziger have all spoken out on the issue.

"Workers' rights must be a condition of Qatar hosting the World Cup in 2022. If there are no labour rights, there should be no World Cup in Qatar. There is still time to re-run the vote for the 2022 World Cup if Qatar does not reform its ways," said Sharan Burrow.

The ITUC called FIFA's proposed courtesy visit to the Emir as a weak and disappointing response to the crisis unfolding in the country. Sepp Blatter is expected to report on his visit at the Executive Committee meeting in Brazil.

Trade unionists and football fans can send a message to their FIFA representative at www.rerunthevote.org

An international union delegation will return to Qatar in early December.

ENDS

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