

To all the players, coaches and football federations,
To all the fans who see their passion vampirised by criminals,
To anyone who mourns the death of 6550 slaves in Qatar,

Dear friend, distant relative,

There was a time when football was all about tactics, local fans and a shared sense of joy. Back then, players were paid because so many people loved and supported them. What accounts for players' extravagant wages nowadays? How come money in football grew totally out of proportion, of decency even? Why is Qatar paying several billions dollars to build stadiums, corrupt the French government or use David Beckham's fame?

Obviously, the kings of oil have never cared for football. They never cared for the people that live and thrive around local stadiums. All they ever wanted is the growth of their wealth and power.

There is so much they are willing to do in order to achieve their goal: maintain their grip on energy production and spread their brutal, unjust and misogynist ideology. Throwing money at player's faces is the least of it. They are willing to build disposable air-cooled stadiums in the desert. They are going as far as enslaving working class people to their death. They are willing to host and mentor Taliban, orchestrating their return to power, which is leading Afghanistan to one of the worst humanitarian crisis of all times. All of that on top of their casual financing of multiple terrorist groups, sentencing of political opponent and killing of homosexuals.

Now, they intend to use the World Cup as a way to showcase their luxury tourism infrastructure, spread their culture and reinforce their soft-power. In order to do so, they have corrupted FIFA. They have corrupted the french president and members of his government, leading the way to war crimes in Libya and Syria and to the collapse of these countries, which in return led to the Bataclan terrorist attack here in France. They have allied themselves with the most polluting and social-wrecking multinationals, which have already been staining and rotting football and society for decades. Through the Aspire academy, they have been trafficking children in order to naturalise a team of sprouts for Qatar to play their first World Cup.

What world is that? Is that a world you want to be living in?

Football was created by the poor. Then, it was stolen by the rich.

Qatar have injected so much money in our sport, building a toxic web of unwholesome interdependencies in order to subdue the most powerful of football organisation. They have made themselves too big, too important to be cast out. They are trying to buy unbeatable teams in order to shatter the sacred relationship between effort and reward, which is the cornerstone of popular sports.

And now it's time for them to cash out. Prices of subscriptions and jerseys are increasing every season. Online betting addiction and ruin have never been so widespread. And they intend to create new competitions and have a World Cup every two years, while they are controlling the beIN broadcast network.

Are players supposed to play a hundred games a year? Just as any working-class person, their employers expect them to work ever harder, longer and go way beyond what is supposed to be a decent working pace. Just like the slaves who died to their death in the Qatari desert, they want all of us to work for them, no matter the consequences on our well-being and health.

We, poor folks from France, cannot resign ourselves to be their tools, their victims. We cannot accept you to be their victim either, because we are equals. Our torments are the same. The justice we want is yours.

We have decided to reclaim what is ours: we have decided to reclaim football!

Therefore, we have asked the french players to answer to us: are they our glorious brothers or Qatar's assets? Are they going to take a stand and put a clear stop to the privatisation and corruption of football? Are they going to boycott the 2022 World Cup?

Friend, sibling, distant relative: we urge you to do the same. With all our hearts, we invite you to ask the same questions to the players of your country. Qatar's crimes are so heinous, so horrific that it is inconceivable to us that any player, any federation would ever want to undertake any kind of complicity or

shared responsibility with the kings of oil. It is inexplicable to us that any company with a shred of moral and ethics would ever sponsor a competition being played in a chain of graveyards.

But we know that Qatar is a powerful and brutal tyrant, that the companies that pay for players' wages are bullying and blackmailing them. Football players are under so much pressure and the competition for a career is so fierce that we don't expect any of them to boycott the World Cup alone. Even if these crimes make them sick, even if they feel ashamed by their role in this carnage, it would be too much to ask any individual to expose oneself to so much retaliation.

They need us. They need you. Without the full support of their fans, of their teammates and staff, they are bound to be dismissed, cast away and mocked.

If, as we do, you hate the fact that football has been stolen from us; if you could never support such a monstrous endeavor as a World Cup in a desert; if you want to put an end to the greed and brutality of the kings of oil; if you want to expose the complicity of the corrupted governments and polluting companies; if you want football to be reclaimed by the poor: join us!

Gather your mates and tell your national team that you will support and encourage them throughout the struggle that lies ahead. Remind them that they will never walk alone. Show them that boycotting the World Cup in Qatar is the only decent thing to do.

In France, we wrote to the players and the press. We've also been to the local stadium, expressing our concerns and grief. Now, we are hoping that all around the world, people will take similar action, in order to express the best part of football, of humanity : solidarity in effort, shared joy in reward.