

International Organization for Animal Protection



OIPA - Organizzazione Internazionale per la Protezione degli Animali - Onlus

NGO associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC)

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Accredited at UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Accredited in the Register of Representatives of Interest of the European Commission

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24th January 2025

Subject: Urgent Appeal Regarding Dog Culling in Morocco Ahead of the 2030 FIFA World Cup

Dear Mr. Infantino,
Dear Mr. Grafström

We, *OIPA – International Organization for Animal Protection*, a non-governmental organization committed to defending animal rights and protecting animals from cruelty and abuse worldwide, are writing to express our deep concern regarding the brutal **dog culling campaign in Morocco** in preparation for the **2030 FIFA World Cup**. Morocco is one of the co-host nations and the local government is planning to kill over **three million stray dogs** ahead of the event.

The methods employed in this culling campaign are deeply disturbing and inhumane. Reports indicate the use of poisoning, mass shootings, and trapping followed by incineration or burial. These practices cause immense suffering to the animals involved and are a clear violation of animal welfare principles.

Furthermore, the public nature of these culls exposes children, citizens, and tourists to distressing scenes of violence, which is contrary to the values of respect and human dignity that FIFA strives to uphold. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has expressed concern about the harmful effects of children being exposed to such violence.

We urge FIFA to take immediate action to address this critical issue:

1. **Publicly Condemn Morocco's Actions:** This would send a strong message that such cruelty is unacceptable and contradicts the spirit of fair play and respect that FIFA represents.
2. **Demand an Independent Investigation:** Appoint an independent body to investigate the methods used and the impact on animal welfare and public health. This investigation should be transparent and its findings made public.
3. **Explore Alternative Solutions:** Support and promote humane and sustainable population management strategies, such as trap-neuter-return programs, which have proven effective in addressing stray animal populations.

4. **Consider the Impact on Public Image:** The association of the FIFA World Cup with such cruelty could damage the reputation of both the tournament and the host nation.

We stand ready to offer our expertise and support in finding a humane and sustainable solution to this pressing issue. We believe that a collaborative approach involving FIFA, the Moroccan government, and animal welfare organizations can lead to a positive outcome that safeguards animal welfare while maintaining public health and safety.

We trust that FIFA will take swift and decisive action to address this matter and uphold the values of compassion and respect that should be integral to any major international sporting event.

Sincerely,

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