

# MUSA HASSAN BILTY

28<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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ALEJANDRO GUILLERMO DOMÍNGUEZ  
PRESIDENT  
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AVENIDA SUDAMERICANA LUQUE  
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Dear Sirs

## **RE: YOUR CONTINUED SILENCE IN THE FACE OF FIFA CORRUPTION IS UNCONSCIONABLE**

Further to our letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020 which was addressed to the President and Secretary-General of the African Union and the United Nations respectively, and copied to your individual organizations, I now wish to address you directly as the most senior and influential personages from the two organizations that make up the most critical building blocks of FIFA.

I continue to speak on behalf of a significant yet disenfranchised part of the game of football all over the World, having previously been one of its guardians.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019, President Čeferin wrote a protest letter to FIFA President Infantino calling out the manipulation of the Bureau of the FIFA Council, whose sole intention was to shield the African Confederation (CAF) President from the likelihood of mandatory disciplinary proceedings and immediate expulsion from all football activities, and which he did by proposing a management mission to CAF Headquarters led by none other than the FIFA SG Fatma Samoura, as special delegate for 6 months.

You see, the CAF President had (immediately after election in 2017) began to involve himself in criminal activities using this position, which had seen him get arrested in Paris by French anti-corruption police a mere 2 weeks prior to this protest letter.

What had been kept secret within FIFA for 4 months, however, was that a separate and even more damaging dossier cataloguing more criminal activities from within his own organization (CAF) had been lodged against him by a former senior member of CAF's management, with the FIFA Ethics committee.

One of the more serious accusations against the CAF President was sexual harassment and assault on female employees and outside contractors, the exact same allegations that triggered FIFA expulsions on Yves Jean-Bart of the Haiti FA and Keramuddin Karim of the Afghanistan FA earlier this year.



What concerns me about this particular allegation is the fact that both of you, Pres. ČEGERIN and Pres. DOMÍNGUEZ, have not felt the need to draw a personal line in the sand with regards to these disgusting sexual accusations, and you have therefore continued to sit happily with this CAF President in meetings of the FIFA Bureau and of the FIFA Council.

To date, the FIFA Ethics committee remains tight-lipped on these issues despite acknowledging receipt of the criminal complaints from multiple sources with sufficient collaborative evidence attached.

The special FIFA mission to Africa, though unwelcome, came with an inbuilt mandatory provision for a forensic audit of CAF finances by audit firm PWC. The audit report, to-date a closely guarded secret, showed an embezzlement of more than \$24 million executed brazenly in the preceding 24 months.

You cannot fail to see the irony here that a mission to Africa would need the express authority of the FIFA Bureau, but its byproduct (the PWC audit report) was apparently neither circulated to members of The Bureau nor put in the agenda for the larger FIFA Council in its subsequent meetings.

UEFA in particular, knows FIFA President Infantino intimately, considering that he spent a large part of the last two decades within the organization, leaving as he did in 2016, having risen to the position of Secretary-General.

Neither can UEFA claim to be unaware of his methods, based purely on what is in the public domain, the magnitude of crises and investigations into wrong-doings that he left in his wake as he moved over to FIFA, including but not limited to his trampling on the Financial Fairplay Rules (FFP) and other internal UEFA procedures in the Manchester City and Paris-St. Germain fiasco, the 2006 sale of UEFA TV rights to the father-son duo of Hugo and Mariano Jinkis for a pittance, who in turn then onward sold them for 3-times that value.

Yet despite all these, he still received UEFA endorsement and 100% of its votes in the 2016 FIFA Presidential vote.

We say this because both UEFA and CONMEBOL have subsequently sat silently as Infantino personally amended the FIFA Code of Ethics to his own benefit, sacked all independent heads of FIFA oversight committees and replaced them with pliable and malleable people, made nepotism and cronyism the centerpiece of FIFA's human resource, abetted the theft of money by elected officials of member associations and the confederations of Africa and the Caribbean.

We only saw UEFA and CONMEBOL with their hackles raised when Infantino attempted to quietly auction their interests and financial lifelines to some obscure buyers.

So I wonder how many times history must teach us the same lesson, of the corrupting capacity of unmitigated power and lack of accountability.

Currently, a special prosecutor has been appointed by the Swiss Government to look into the likely criminality of interactions between this same Infantino and Attorney-General Michael Lauber.

Regardless that Lauber has offered to resign his position in the Swiss Government, FIFA's reputation has once more taken a battering, coming as it has, on the heels of the FIFA-gate scandal of 2015.

So I ask, does Infantino come across to you as the sort of person who would willingly relinquish his position as FIFA President even if he was found to have criminal culpability in the Lauber inquiry?

Didn't he amend the FIFA Code of Ethics (FCE) to the effect that football leaders are above National laws and only fall under the jurisdiction of the FCE and FIFA Ethics committee?

Should it even matter whether he has been found criminally culpable or not, or should the fact that he has brought FIFA and its global standing into disrepute be sufficient grounds for him to resign his position immediately?

You will agree with me that resignation requires a measure of honor, an attribute that Infantino has demonstrated time and again to be deficient.

In hindsight, it is now possible to infer that it was in anticipation of such extraordinary circumstances (criminal conduct in the Lauber probe) that Infantino tinkered with all supervisory committees of FIFA, replacing their independent heads with puppets, none of whom would lift a finger to sanction or admonish him, let alone take more serious action against him.

I have arrived at the conclusion that UEFA and CONMEBOL are the de facto patrons of FIFA prosperity, holding up its competitions and therefore its commercial viability. Conversely, this also means that the two institutions may also have unwittingly abetted the corruption that has taken root therein.

So, good sirs, the time has come for you to demand the immediate resignation of Gianni Infantino from the FIFA Presidency before he irrevocably destroys what is left of it. Should he decline to do so, UEFA and CONMEBOL should be prepared to withdraw from all FIFA competitions and to create brand new replacement competitions.

20<sup>th</sup> Century history is littered with moments when bad decisions were made, giving rise to people and situations that in hindsight, caused incalculable anguish and torment on global citizenry.

The February 2016 FIFA Presidential election was such a moment.

Here is a question, should the Swiss Government enquiry by Stefan Keller find Infantino's conduct to have been criminal, and thus propose the opening up of criminal proceedings against him,

will FIFA write to Switzerland threatening her with suspension from FIFA activities for Government interference?

Or are such threats the preserve of African, Caribbean and other 3<sup>rd</sup> World FIFA members?

Yours sincerely



**MUSA H. BILITY**  
**FMR. CAF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
**FMR. LIBERIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

C.C:

Member Associations, UEFA  
Member Associations, CONMEBOL