



Christine Buchholz

Member of German Parliament
Parliamentary Group DIE LINKE.

To FIFA

Fédération Internationale de Football Association

President Gianni Infantino

FIFA-Strasse 20,

P.O. Box 8044 Zurich

Switzerland

18 May 2018

Dear Mr Infantino,

This year, the 2018 FIFA football World Cup will enthrall millions of people once more, both in the stadiums of host country Russia, as well as on screens around the world. Like you, we hope that the tournament will be a peaceful celebration in the spirit of solidarity between people.

In order to achieve this, undivided support in Russia as the host country is required. We were concerned to read an appeal by students from Moscow. The text, titled "FIFA World Cup 2018: Sports for the people, not for the governments and big business!" explains that the FIFA Fan Fest in Moscow is to be located at a highly unsuitable site near the city's university. Students, teaching staff, employees and residents have protested against this.

The text states that: "The noise and the security measures will affect badly the educational and research activities and the life of the campus with 6,500 inhabitants, 37,000 students and 9,000 professors and researchers. Faculties are to shorten the courses and the exam sessions, researchers are forced to take holidays. The residents of the dormitory are either to suffer from the noise or to risk eviction. The citizens are to suffer from a transport collapse caused by the installation of a strict gating system

around territory that has always been open to public. The green territory around our University wasn't designed to host a festival with 25,000 football fans.

After the protests, the zone was moved a little further from the main building. This is a fake response. This placement will damage the University. We demand to move it away from the University district. Not considering the opinion of the university community and making it suffer in order to organize a commercial event is an insult to all of us. So we collected more than 4,500 signatures on petition, write letters to FIFA representatives and picketing government buildings in Moscow. Now our efforts are met with stiff resistance from the responsible persons."

As Member of the German Bundestag, I consider the students' requests to be understandable and justified. Enjoyment of football cannot lead to the work and living environment of the local population being impaired in this way. I ask you to use your influence to urge the relevant authorities in Russia to relocate the fan festivities in Moscow. In view of the size of the city, finding a solutions that is agreeable for the population as a whole should not be a problem.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Buchholz', written in a cursive style.

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