

**Show Israel
the red card!**

© www.bds-info.ch



Palestinian women's and men's football team



Bombed-soccer stadium in Gaza

**World Cup qualifying match
Switzerland v. Israel,
Basel, 14 October 2009**

On the occasion of the Switzerland v. Israel World Cup qualifying match in Basel, we call on FIFA to comply with its Statutes and seize the opportunity to live up to its vaunted role as a front-line activist for a more just world by suspending Israel. Such a declaration would constitute a milestone victory for human rights – both for the Palestinian people and for the international football community.

**No to apartheid and
occupation!**

Palestinian sportsmen and women also deserve fair play

Israel's systematic discrimination against the Palestinian population prevents sportsmen and women from practising their sports and exposes them to life-threatening risks, thereby violating the Statutes of FIFA and the Olympic Charter.

- According to the Palestinian sports federation Atlas, 375 Palestinian amateur and professional sportsmen and women have been killed and about two thousand wounded over the past nine years. During the Israeli military operations in Gaza at the beginning of the year, no fewer than three footballers from the Palestinian national team were killed.
- Sportsmen and women from Gaza and the West Bank are deliberately prevented by Israel from leaving and entering the country, and they are seldom able to train together, take part in international matches or invite teams from other countries.
- It was not until 2007 that the national women's football team had its first opportunity to travel abroad to Jordan for a qualifying match. "The women played the match without even knowing their first names." (Coach Hilal)
- Training and matches with team mates are grossly obstructed on a regular basis by checkpoints and closures.
- Infrastructure and training grounds in Gaza and the West Bank have repeatedly been targeted by Israeli attacks.
- Palestinian sportsmen and women in Israel are the victims of racist attacks.

Israel's policy violates human rights, international law and numerous international and bilateral treaties. The United Nations and the international community – and sports federations too – are urged to draw the requisite conclusions and impose sanctions on Israel until such time as the fundamental rights of the Palestinian population are respected.

"Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion." Art. 3 of the FIFA Statuts (August 2009 edition)

The BDS Campaign (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions)

The entire spectrum of Palestinian NGOs, trade unions and parties call on international civil society to boycott Israel. The BDS campaign is modelled on the anti-apartheid movement. It is based on international law and its aim is to end Israeli occupation and apartheid, to achieve full equality for Palestinian citizens in Israel, and to enforce the right of return of Palestinian refugees.



For more information
www.bds-info.ch and
www.bdsmovement.net