Council on American-Islamic Relations
Greater Los Angeles Area Office
2180 W Crescent Avenue, Suite H, Anaheim, CA 92801
Tel. 714-776-1177 Fax 714-776-8340 ca.cair.com

VIA CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL & E-MAIL

LA World Cup Host Committee / Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission
Attn: [redacted]
633 West 5th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90071, US

[redacted]

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)
FIFA Strasse 20
P.O Box 8044
Zurich, Switzerland
humanrightscomplaint@fifa.org

Office of Major Events
Office of Mayor Karen Bass
Attn: [redacted]
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Suite 1035
Los Angeles CA 90012

[redacted]

Los Angeles County
District Attorney's Office
Attn: Nathan J. Hochman
211 West Temple Street
Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012
info@da.lacounty.gov

Inglewood Police Department
Attn: Chief Mark Fronterotta
P.O. Box 6500
Inglewood, CA 90301
mfronterotta@cityofinglewood.org

Los Angeles/SoFi Stadium
1001 S. Stadium Drive
Inglewood, CA 90301

211 LA
526 W. Las Tunas Drive
San Gabriel, CA 91776
human.rights@211la.org

RE: Urgent Concerns Regarding Hate-Based Harassment, Assault, and Violence at the June 15, 2026 FIFA World Cup Match between Iran and New Zealand

To The Above Recipients:

My name is Sami Ghanem and I am a Civil Rights Attorney for the Greater Los Angeles Area Office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, California (CAIR-CA). CAIR-CA is a nonprofit American-Muslim civil rights advocacy organization with the mission to enhance the understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

The Greater Los Angeles office of CAIR-CA (CAIR-LA) previously participated in the Los Angeles Roundtable on the Host Committee's Human Rights Action Plan, and we welcomed the commitment to and discussions on how Los Angeles was working to ensure a safe, welcoming, and hate-free environment for all those attending the World Cup games at Los Angeles Stadium (SoFi Stadium). **Unfortunately, we are writing to you today regarding our grave concerns about several reported incidents of hate and hate-based violence targeting fans at the World Cup Match between Iran and New Zealand on June 15, 2026.**

Reports of Hate-Based Harassment, Assault, and Physical Violence

CAIR-LA has received multiple reports of verbal harassment, assaults, and physical violence that occurred on Monday, June 15, 2026, during the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup 2026 Group Stage Match between Iran and New Zealand at the Los Angeles Stadium. According to these reports, perpetrators targeted people of Iranian origin, people wearing hijabs, and individuals holding Iranian and/or Palestinian flags with verbal harassment, assaults, and physical violence.

This type of hate and violence is absolutely unacceptable and has no place at any sporting event. The World Cup is meant to be a celebration of global unity and human connection. Attacks on fans based on their national origin, religion, ethnicity, or political expression are morally reprehensible and may constitute criminal conduct under California and federal law, including, but not limited to, violations of California's hate crime statutes (Penal Code §§ 422.55, 422.6), assault and battery provisions (Penal Code §§ 240, 242), and other applicable state and federal laws.

Attendees have the right to celebrate and express themselves in a public venue. Any attempt to intimidate or silence that expression through harassment or violence is unlawful and must be met with swift and appropriate accountability.

Demand For Immediate Action

In light of the foregoing, CAIR-LA urgently demands the following:

1. We call upon FIFA, Los Angeles/SoFi Stadium, the LA World Cup Host Committee, and all involved parties to significantly increase security measures at upcoming World Cup matches at this venue. The safety and security of all fans must be guaranteed. In particular, we urge that immediate and concrete steps be taken to ensure that no further hate-based violence occurs at the upcoming Group Stage Match between Iran and Belgium on Sunday, June 21, 2026.
2. We urge law enforcement to promptly and thoroughly investigate all reports of violence and harassment that occurred at the Iran v. New Zealand match on June 15, 2026, and to hold the perpetrators fully accountable for their actions under applicable California and federal law.
3. We call on FIFA, Los Angeles/SoFi Stadium, and the LA World Cup Host Committee to prominently communicate clear, zero-tolerance policies against

hate-based harassment and violence to all attending fans, including through pre-match announcements, signage, and any appropriate means.

4. We call on the LA World Cup Host Committee and the Mayor's Office to revisit and strengthen the commitments made in the Human Rights Action Plan to ensure they are operationalized in a meaningful and effective manner for all remaining World Cup matches hosted in Los Angeles.

The World Cup is a global stage, and the world is watching how Los Angeles responds to hate. CAIR-LA stands ready to work collaboratively with all parties to ensure that Los Angeles lives up to its commitment to be a safe and welcoming host city. We hope you will treat this matter with the seriousness and immediacy it demands.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this urgent matter further, please contact me at sghanem@cair.com or (657) 213-7261.

Sincerely,

Amr Shabaik, Esq.
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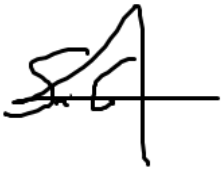

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