



Ian Maxwell
Chief Executive Officer
The Scottish Football Association
Hampden Park,
Glasgow
G42 9AY

1 October 2025

Dear Mr Maxwell,

Re: Scottish FA's view on Israel's participation in international tournaments

I want to connect with you on the subject of Israel's participation in international football tournaments. You will be aware that this is an issue of growing public interest.

Amnesty International is calling on UEFA and FIFA to suspend the Israeli Football Association (IFA) until the IFA excludes clubs from settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) from continuing to play in its leagues. The participation of these clubs is a violation of both international law and FIFA's own statutes. The suspension of the IFA would mean that neither FIFA nor UEFA would provide funding to the IFA, nor would Israeli national or club teams be able to play in international competitions until the IFA complied with international law and FIFA statutes, nor be represented or vote as a member.

I am asking the Scottish FA to take and communicate a clear position on this to UEFA and FIFA in recognition of the current context and in light of the [UK's advisory](#) on the illegality of settlements:

'The UK has a clear position on Israeli settlements: The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza and the Golan Heights have been occupied by Israel since 1967. Settlements are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We will not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties.....There are therefore clear risks related to economic and financial activities in the settlements, and we do not encourage or offer support to such activity.'



It would be incongruous for UEFA and FIFA to continue to allow IFA to remain a member while it permits teams from illegally occupied territory to participate in its competitions. This would cast a shadow over the footballing world including the audiences everywhere that love the game and watch it.

I hope you will understand that this is an issue which needs clear and decisive leadership from National FAs, including in their interactions with UEFA and FIFA.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Thomson
Acting Scotland Programme Director
Amnesty International UK