



FIFA response to the BHRRC on allegations raised by USM Qatar workers

FIFA has taken note of the allegations contained in the [article by Josimar Football](#) and raised by a group of USM Qatar workers in the context of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. In line with FIFA's Human Rights Policy (see [here](#)) and article 3 of the FIFA Statutes, FIFA is firmly committed to upholding and promoting internationally recognised human and labour rights standards for all workers involved in the FIFA World Cup 2022.

In 2019, together with its counterparts in Qatar, FIFA started to conduct a monitoring and inspection programme on a large set of hotels that would be used for the FIFA World Cup by teams, staff, partners and fans. The programme included a total of 163 hotels, with the aim of ensuring compliance with the SC's Workers Welfare Standards for all of these hotels. The team base camps, such as the InterContinental Doha Beach & Spa, were all part of the programme.

FIFA considers any non-compliance with the SC's Workers Welfare Standards unacceptable. FIFA and the SC worked with external partners in these efforts, which included independent audits by a specialist social auditing firm and collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the establishment and operation of workers' committees at the hotels. FIFA and the SC also conducted training for hotels, as well as regular in-depth inspections. Wherever issues were identified through inspections, we informed the hotel accordingly and followed up together with the SC and, where required, with the Ministry of Labour on the rectification.

With regard to the InterContinental Doha Beach & Spa, FIFA was not aware of the allegations mentioned in Josimar's article, nor did it receive any grievance against the hotel via its dedicated human rights grievance mechanism for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 (see [here](#)). Overall, the InterContinental Doha Beach & Spa showed high levels of adherence to the SC's Workers Welfare Standards in all of the assessments conducted. However, FIFA will follow up with its Qatari counterparts to better understand the specific allegations raised by the group of USM Qatar workers.

International experts and trade union representatives who assessed and collaborated in the labour rights programme for FIFA World Cup workers have repeatedly recognised that it led to heightened protection and welfare for FIFA World Cup workers. More generally, according to the ILO, Qatar's labour reforms have been significant and benefitted hundreds of thousands of workers, with the World Cup being an important catalyst for these reforms.

FIFA, 22 June 2023