



**Discriminatory incidents recorded by the Fare Network  
at the FIFA World Cup 2014, Brazil**

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#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Fare network has collected incidents of discrimination inside stadiums at the FIFA World Cup 2014 which are presented in this report.

The incidents may seem to be out of step with events over the past month, because by most people's standards the 2014 FIFA World Cup has been a wonderful tournament.

The attacking style of play and good sportsmanship on the field of play, the friendliness and interactions of the host population with visitors, and the diverse cities and beautiful natural environments have all meant that the past month has lived up to the ideal of a World Cup hosted by Brazil.

#### **2. ISSUES OF DISCRIMINATION**

As the embodiment of the ideal of a cross-cultural multi-ethnic society Brazil is not a place one easily associates with issues of discrimination and hate crimes.

But like other societies in Latin America, Brazil faces many challenges that are directly or indirectly related to issues of exclusion. Many of them are unspoken, many are cross-cutting and layered with factors that relate to racial origin, gender, income and class.

These are long-term issues that many societies have to deal with in one way or another.

The concern of the Fare network was to look as far as we could at the issues of discrimination inside stadiums, as both an imperative of our own work but also because of FIFA's zero-tolerance stance and the 'No to Racism' campaign, and the Brazilian governments own campaign and position.

The sad fact is that as a sport of genuine global interest football also can be a vehicle for expressing discrimination and perpetuating exclusion.

Against this background we noted several incidents in which visiting fans in particular brought their own prejudices, attitudes and way of supporting football that we would categorise as acts of discrimination or hate crimes.

#### **3. COLLECTION METHODOLOGY**

Reporting incidents is not an end in itself but a way of increasing understanding and educating fan groups, the general public and football associations.

There was not a specific mechanism for understanding incidents and collecting data for FIFA to deal with at this World Cup. The Fare network did not operate an observer scheme inside stadiums and there were no other monitoring systems in place.

We do believe that had there been a greater awareness of the nature of incidents that might take place, a more accurate picture would have emerged.

Our reports came in from a variety of sources which included supporters, NGO expert groups and the media. Curiously we also received information through fan message boards and websites based in Europe where the hoisting of far-right banners and individual acts of racism were celebrated.

We were also contacted by individual supporters and organisations with additional concerns that could not be listed because no evidence was available.

The number of issues we have listed are relatively small, but significant in terms of the messages of hate they project and the warning signs for future tournaments in Latin America and Europe.

In particular, the rise of European far-right groups in football is a trend that has been well documented over the past two seasons.

We are also aware of the prominence of homophobia in football in Latin America. This seems to have been a part of the sport for a number of years but is out of step and should be addressed urgently. The hostile response from fans of Mexico, some Mexican media outlets and some politicians, to the reporting of the 'Puto' chant to FIFA as a discriminatory act shows a lack of understanding of the highly offensive nature of this chant.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

We make a number of short recommendations for implementation at future international football tournaments.

##### **1. Training of match day officials**

It is imperative that all officials with a significant role to play in match operations should be trained to be aware of the possibility of acts of discrimination inside stadiums and action to be taken that are specific to their roles. Security Officers, Match Commissioners and Referees are key officials but there are other FIFA operational staff who should receive training.

##### **2. Training of Disciplinary Commission members**

Sanctions can sometimes appear to be applied inconsistently and the disciplinary process often appears to be subject to different interpretations. There are incidents that are sanctioned in World Cup qualifiers but similar incidents that take place during the tournament itself are dismissed.

##### **3. All international tournaments should have independent observers**

In our view, there can be no understanding of the true level of incidents, and no mechanism to collect evidence, unless there are observers present whose role is to bring these issues to the attention of match operations personnel and disciplinary committees for action.

##### **4. Engagement with supporter groups on issues of discrimination**

Fans are both the perpetrators of some acts of discrimination in football and the carriers of anti-discrimination messages and action. It is essential that some sort of dialogue exists during tournaments with supporter groups who can disseminate messages, isolate perpetrators and use peer pressure as an educational technique.

##### **5. Increase understanding of possible incidents**

FIFA, football confederations and local organising committees responsible for events should understand the types of incidents that may occur and make provision for them

through better intelligence.

Preparing information on the type of discriminatory incidents previously recorded could help to prevent repeats at tournaments. National level NGO expert groups are often available to provide information based on their experience.

## **5. LIST OF INCIDENTS**

### **12 June 2014 – FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Brazil v Croatia**

Croatian fans displayed a far-right banner with a fascist salute of the Ustashe regime during the World War II.

A similar banner was seen in tourist spots around Rio de Janeiro including on the famous Escadaria Selarón steps in Lapa.

Fare passed the details of the incident to FIFA Disciplinary Committee. FIFA opened proceedings but later dismissed the charge.

### **13 June 2014 – FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Mexico v Cameroon**

Mexican fans chanted homophobic abuse through use of the word 'Puto' each time the opposition goalkeeper took a goal kick.

Fare passed the details of the incident to FIFA Disciplinary Committee. FIFA opened proceedings but later dismissed the charge.

### **13 June 2014 – FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Spain v Netherlands**

There were reports that Spain striker Diego Costa was subjected to homophobic abuse by Brazilians in the stadium. Among other forms of abuse he was repeatedly called a 'maricon'.

### **16 June 2014 – FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Germany v Portugal**

A Germany fan displayed a Reichskriegsflagge, the war flag of the German Empire used between 1867-1921. The flag is prohibited in many Germany states and is often used by far-right groups.

Fare passed the details of the incident to FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

### **17 June 2014 – FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Brazil v Mexico**

Mexico fans chanted 'Puto' whenever Brazil goalkeeper Julius Cesar took a goal kick. Brazil fans responded by chanting the same to Guillermo Ochoa. In the second half this was the most audible chant heard in the stadium.

The word Puto was used by Mexican supporters throughout the tournament. No further incidents were brought to the attention of FIFA by Fare after the initial ruling dismissing the chant as not discriminatory.

### **17 June 2014 – FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Russia v South Korea**

A banner with neo-Nazi symbols was clearly displayed by a group of Russian fans. The banner featured an SS-Totenkopf skull and a Celtic Cross on a Russian Imperial flag along with the Dynamo Moscow logo.

Details were passed to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. FIFA opened proceedings but later dismissed the charges.

**19 June 2014 - FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Uruguay v England**

An England fan, actor Riz Ahmed, reported on social media that he was the victim of racial abuse from a fellow England supporter.

In a second incident, Robert Farquharson was racially abused and physically attacked inside the stadium by other England fans. The attack included having a part of his ear bitten off and being punched several times. The attack was filmed by a bystander and featured in the British media. The Brazilian and British police were reportedly looking for the suspect.

**19 June 2014 – FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Colombia v Cote D'Ivoire**

A man appearing to be Colombia fan was photographed wearing a priestly costume prominently decorated with swastikas.

Fare passed the details of the incident to FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

**20 June 2014 - FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Switzerland v France**

Two supporters of France appeared in the stadium dressed up as what might be recognized as 'black maids' and wearing black face make-up.

Fare passed the details of the incident to FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

**21 June 2014 - FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Germany v Ghana**

In the 53 minute a stalker later identified as Lubomir Leszek appeared on the pitch with messages written on his chest and back. The messages contained several symbols widely used by neo-Nazis, in particular 'HH' (an acronym of 'Heil Hitler'), two letter S styled as Sig runes used by Nazi troops during World War II, and 'CC' used by the neo-Nazis to signify 'Concentration Camps'.

Several German fans appeared at the stadium with their faces painted black wearing T-shirts with 'Ghana' marked on them.

Fare passed the details of the incident to FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

**FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Belgium**

An individual supporter of Belgium was pictured inside a stadium with his face painted black.

Fare passed the details of the incident to FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

**26 June 2014 - FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014: Algeria v Russia**

A banner with a Celtic Cross, symbol used by far-right groups worldwide to denote "white supremacy", was displayed by Russian fans inside the stadium. The Celtic Cross is one of the most widely used racist symbols.

The banner belongs to a fan group named 'Uralmash supporters' of FC Ural from Ekaterinburg, Russia and has previously been recorded on display at multiple matches of FC Ural in domestic competitions with other racist symbols and messages.

Fare passed the details of the incidents to FIFA Disciplinary Committee.



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