

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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July 26, 2026

Mr. Gianni Infantino
President
FIFA
Trump Tower
725 5th Avenue, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Infantino:

In 2015, the Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecuted more than two dozen high level FIFA officials and sports-marketing executives for a racketeering conspiracy involving wire fraud and money laundering. The DOJ accused defendants from more than 20 countries of exchanging more than \$200 million in bribes and kickbacks over 24 years in return for lucrative media rights to international soccer matches.¹

In one of many criminal cases brought as part of the investigation, a federal jury found Full Play Group and a Fox executive guilty of wire fraud and money laundering conspiracies.² That conviction was unanimously upheld on appeal.³ Yet, months after this emphatic victory, the Trump Administration abruptly and inexplicably dropped the case, declining to submit an opposition brief in a tap-in appeal to the Supreme Court.

DOJ's actions are all the more indefensible in light of the damning underlying facts. The defendants acted with intense consciousness of guilt, leaving no doubt that media executives and FIFA officials were breaking the law. Full Play Group, for example, kept detailed ledgers to track millions of dollars in bribes given to soccer officials, labeling the presidents of national teams and FIFA confederations they paid off with pseudonyms like "Benz," "Fiat," and

¹ Press Release, *Nine FIFA Officials and Five Corporate Executives Indicted for Racketeering Conspiracy and Corruption*, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE (May 27, 2015), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/nine-fifa-officials-and-five-corporate-executives-indicted-racketeering-conspiracy-and>; Press Release, *Sixteen Additional FIFA Officials Indicted for Racketeering Conspiracy and Corruption*, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE (Dec. 3, 2015), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/sixteen-additional-fifa-officials-indicted-racketeering-conspiracy-and-corruption>.

² Press Release, *Former 21st Century Fox Executive and Argentina-Based Sports Marketing Company Full Play Group S.A., Convicted of Bribing Soccer Officials in FIFA Case*, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE (Mar. 9, 2023), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/former-21st-century-fox-executive-and-argentina-based-sports-marketing-company-full>.

³ *United States v. Lopez*, 143 F.4th 99 (2nd Cir. 2025).

“Toyota.”⁴ The company set up secret Swiss bank accounts and Panamanian shell companies to facilitate these payments, and its co-conspirator commented that, if their conduct were discovered, “All of us go to prison.”⁵

On appeal, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unanimously that the defendants’ global corporate bribery constituted honest services fraud, observing that such conduct was emblematic of international soccer’s “rampant” corruption.⁶ The circuit court also noted that the FIFA officials who accepted such bribes violated a fiduciary duty to their soccer associations.⁷

But, true to form, DOJ pulled defeat from the jaws of victory. It endorsed the defendants’ requests to vacate their convictions, moved to dismiss the indictments altogether, and then shamefully let the white-collar convicts walk free.⁸ Four more defendants from the same case are now seeking the same treatment from DOJ.⁹ The United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York tried to justify this bizarre absolution by claiming that such an appeal was not a “priority” of the Administration and that the government needed to divert resources to other cases.¹⁰ Even the presiding judge did not buy this laughable rationale, stating the “team was fully adequate” to respond to the latest appeal.¹¹ Not a single attorney who actually worked the case would stand in the courtroom with the Trump-appointed U.S. Attorney to support these outrageous and humiliating dismissals.¹²

DOJ’s puzzling capitulation makes a lot more sense when we reflect on FIFA’s brazen campaign to curry favor with Donald Trump since his re-election—a campaign that has now paid rich dividends for FIFA just as North America hosted its first joint World Cup. Over the past 18 months, you invented a hilariously fake “FIFA Peace Prize” to award to President Trump, who has made no secret of the fact that he covets the Nobel Peace Prize.¹³ You leased an office space on the 17th floor of Trump Tower—a space that might retail for \$600,000 a year—even though it

⁴ Ronald Blum, *Secret Payments to Soccer Officials Cloaked by Car Names*, ASSOC. PRESS (Nov. 21, 2017), <https://apnews.com/general-news-cba43b6f4b2c4ed68842daa164fe4b5a>.

⁵ Indictment at 112, *United States of America v. Jeffrey Webb, et al.*, 15-CR-0252 (E.D.N.Y. May 2015), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/file/450211/dl?inline>.

⁶ *United States v. Lopez*, 143 F.4th 99, 103 (2nd Cir. 2025).

⁷ *Id.* at 112.

⁸ See Brief of the United States, *Full Play Group, S.A., Petitioner v. United States & Hernan Lopez, Petitioner v. United States*, 25-390, 25-396 (Dec. 9, 2025).

⁹ Santul Nerkar & Ken Bensinger, *Bribery Indictments Are Dismissed in Case That Shook Soccer World*, N.Y. TIMES (May 27, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/27/nyregion/fifa-indictments-soccer-dismissed.html>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Press Release, *President Donald J. Trump awarded “FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World”*, FIFA (Dec. 5, 2025), <https://inside.fifa.com/campaigns/football-unites-the-world/news/president-trump-peace-prize-football-unites-the-world>; Seung Min Kim, *FIFA Gives Trump a Peace Prize in a Departure from Its Traditional Focus on Sports*, ASSOC. PRESS (Dec. 5, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/trump-world-cup-fifa-peace-prize-e14f95b8adaa197c869cad407b6ef604>.

would only be used during the 39-day period of the World Cup.¹⁴ That comes to more than \$15,000 a day. These actions appear designed to induce President Trump and his Administration to make decisions in FIFA's favor. Even your predecessor, Sepp Blatter (himself suspended from world soccer in the wake of the bribery scandal) noted that your "yearslong campaign to curry favor" was aimed at influencing the President, wryly noting that "Infantino thinks he's the leader in the relationship."¹⁵

This strategy of outright bribery is not new to your organization. In addition to the media rights-for-cash scandal, FIFA officials accepted bribes to rig the selection process for the 1998, 2010, 2018, and 2022 World Cups, and several were caught selling votes for the FIFA presidency itself.¹⁶ In one revealing anecdote, one Caribbean FIFA official invited delegates to join him in a literal back room, where he plied each with \$40,000 in cash in exchange for their presidential votes.¹⁷ The official then defended the bribery on camera with this indelible defense: "if you are pious, open a church."¹⁸

But your election as FIFA President was supposed to mark a red-card break from a decades-long culture of corruption and scandals that dressed down world soccer's reputation. Indeed, you were elected with a mandate to clean house following the resignation of Mr. Blatter over all these bribery schemes.¹⁹ Instead, at the start of your tenure, you dismantled FIFA's ethical guardrails and disabled the organization's ethics committee by pushing out most of its members.²⁰ This lack of transparency and oversight has since paved the way for you to ingratiate

¹⁴ Tariq Panja & Rebecca Ruiz, *A Yearslong Effort to Woo Trump Culminates with the World Cup*, N.Y. TIMES (June 9, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/09/world/europe/world-cup-infantino-trump.html>; Dominari Holdings, Inc., Form 10-Q (May 12, 2026), 13, <https://app.quotemedia.com/data/downloadFiling?webmasterId=102691&ref=320041281&type=PDF&symbol=DOMH&cdn=cd95daf37e0b9110a9c041ba89a1a7ef&companyName=Dominari+Holdings+Inc.&formType=10-Q&formDescription=General+form+for+quarterly+reports+under+Section+13+or+15%28d%29&dateFiled=2026-05-13>.

¹⁵ Tariq Panja & Rebecca Ruiz, *A Yearslong Effort to Woo Trump Culminates with the World Cup*, N.Y. TIMES (June 9, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/09/world/europe/world-cup-infantino-trump.html>.

¹⁶ Owen Gibson & Paul Lewis, *FIFA Informant Chuck Blazer: I Took Bribes Over 1998 and 2010 World Cups*, THE GUARDIAN (June 3, 2015), <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/jun/03/fifa-chuck-blazer-bribes-world-cup>; Stephan Uersfeld, *FIFA Releases Full Garcia Report into Corruption in 2018, '22 World Cup Bids*, ESPN (June 27, 2017), https://www.espn.com/soccer/story/_/id/37525405/fifa-releases-full-garcia-report-corruption-2018-2022-world-cup-bids-leak.

¹⁷ *Official 'Was Offered \$40,000' After Mohamed bin Hammam Presentation*, THE GUARDIAN (May 30, 2011), <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2011/may/30/mohamed-bin-hammam-fifa>.

¹⁸ Shaun Assael & Brett Forrest, *The FBI vs. FIFA*, ESPN (Feb. 16, 2016), https://www.espn.com/espn/feature/story/_/id/14767250/the-exclusive-story-how-feds-took-fifa.

¹⁹ Jack Sargeant, *Gianni Infantino Elected New FIFA President*, SB NATION (Feb. 26, 2016), <https://www.sbnation.com/soccer/2016/2/26/11110142/gianni-infantino-fifa-president-election>.

²⁰ Matt Scott, *FIFA's New Ethics Code Shows Intention to End Transparency*, ESPN (Aug. 20, 2018), https://www.espn.co.uk/football/story/_/id/37501276/fifa-new-ethics-code-shows-their-intention-end-transparency; Simon Evans, *Infantino Interfered in Changes to FIFA Ethics Code - Report*, REUTERS (Nov. 2, 2018), <https://www.reuters.com/article/amp/idUKKCN1N72JJ/>; David Conn, *Infantino's FIFA 'Incapacitated' Corruption Fight, Say Ousted Ethics Chairmen*, THE GUARDIAN (May 10, 2017), <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2017/may/10/ousted-fifa-ethics-heads-investigating-hundreds-corruption-cases>.

yourself with the Trump Administration via tactics that a New York University law professor and one of your former ethics committeemen described as “legal bribery.”²¹

The most recent quid pro quo that FIFA and President Trump orchestrated is not a victimless crime. It hurts Americans. FIFA has taken its newfound favored status in the Trump Administration as a sign that it may rip off its consumers, most notably, by employing illegal price gouging and fraudulent sales tactics for the World Cup.²² The original North American bid promised a maximum finals ticket price of \$1,550—FIFA surged finals tickets to nearly \$33,000 per seat, more than 20 times the promised price.²³ FIFA also introduced dynamic pricing, leading to sharply higher prices for many games. Even after a fan buys a ticket, FIFA may, at its own discretion, move the ticketholder into a worse seat in a worse section.²⁴ This is plainly unlawful, anti-consumer conduct. As Americans are defrauded and manipulated by FIFA, the attorneys general of New York and New Jersey have launched investigations into these practices. Attorney General Jennifer Davenport of New Jersey observed, “FIFA has turned buying a ticket to the World Cup into a gauntlet of confusion, fake scarcity, and impossibly high prices—all at the expense of consumers.”²⁵ But President Trump’s DOJ and Federal Trade Commission have sat idly by, doing nothing.

In light of troubling and inexplicable benefits conferred on FIFA seemingly in exchange for favors to President Trump, and pursuant to the House Judiciary Committee’s authority to conduct oversight of the enforcement of federal bribery and consumer protection laws, I request you produce the following documents and information no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 9, 2026:

1. A list of anything of value (including transfer of money, gifts, prizes, awards, or public appearances) given to President Trump, members of his Administration, or their family members, or any entity associated with them, such as The Trump Organization;

²¹ Henry Bushnell, *The ‘Legal Bribery’ and Duality of Gianni Infantino’s FIFA*, YAHOO SPORTS (May 27, 2025), <https://sports.yahoo.com/soccer/article/the-legal-bribery-and-duality-of-gianni-infantinos-fifa-040045919.html>.

²² Rafael Nam, *FIFA’s World Cup Ticket Sales Outraged Fans. Now They Are Under Investigation*, NPR (May 28, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/05/28/nx-s1-5836514/2026-world-cup-fifa-ticket-prices>.

²³ *Canada, Mexico, and the United States United Bid to Host the 2026 FIFA World Cup*, FIFA (2026), at 444, <https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/3c077448dcd5c0ab/original/w3yjeu7dadt5erw26wmu-pdf.pdf>; *FIFA Triples Best Available World Cup Final Ticket to \$33K*, ESPN (May 7, 2026), https://www.espn.com/soccer/story/_/id/48707727/fifa-triples-best-available-world-cup-final-ticket-33k.

²⁴ Matt Hughes, *FIFA Leadership “Overruled US-based Staff” Opposing World Cup Dynamic Pricing*, THE GUARDIAN (June 23, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2026/jun/23/fifa-leadership-overruled-us-based-staff-opposing-world-cup-dynamic-pricing>; Rafael Nam, *FIFA’s World Cup Ticket Sales Outraged Fans. Now They Are Under Investigation*, NPR (May 28, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/05/28/nx-s1-5836514/2026-world-cup-fifa-ticket-prices>.

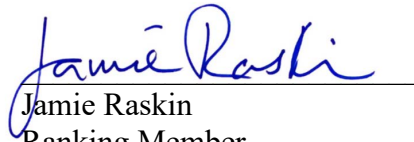
²⁵ Henry Bushnell, *New York, New Jersey AGs Launch Investigation of FIFA’s World Cup Ticketing Prices*, THE ATHLETIC (May 27, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/7311352/2026/05/27/new-york-nj-attorney-general-fifa-world-cup-tickets-investigation/>.

2. All documents and communications relating to the gifts referenced in Request No. 1, including but not limited to FIFA's lease or rental in Trump Tower and the "FIFA Peace Prize";
3. All documents and communications since 2024 with any United States official, or anyone associated with the 2024–2025 Presidential transition, regarding any matter pending before or under consideration by officials at the Department of Justice or any other department, agency, or office of the United States;
4. All communications with the United States government relating to your ticketing practices, including consumer complaints, discussion regarding variable or other pricing mechanisms, third-party sellers, and ticket prices; and
5. All visitor logs for FIFA's Miami and New York City offices for the duration of the New York City office lease term.

This letter also serves as notice to preserve all communications between FIFA personnel and individuals affiliated with the Trump Administration or its inaugural committee—including disappearing messages exchanged on ephemeral communication platforms, such as Signal, Telegram, WhatsApp, X, and Truth Social. Furthermore, to assist in this investigation, we request that you, while in the United States, appear for a transcribed interview with this Committee. Please contact Democratic Committee staff no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 9, 2026, to schedule this interview.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman