February 23, 2021

Objective: A Joint petition to for the withdrawal of Real Madrid women's team sponsorship deal with Saudi Arabia and its Qiddiya project due to its human rights violations against women's rights.

For the attention of the Women's March Ambassadors Chapter in Madrid

Copies:

•   President of the Royal Spanish Federation Luis Rubiales
•   Real Madrid President Florentino Perez

Dear Chapter Ambassadors,

We request the co-sponsorship of this petition which aims to urge the persons mentioned above to reject the agreement between Saudi Arabia and the Real Madrid women's team. The deal would see 'Qiddiya' become the lead sponsor of Real Madrid women's team for the next ten years in exchange for €150m. The agreement should be rejected as Saudi Arabia's human rights record is poor and full of severe and unprecedented violations against women and female activists.

Background Information:

Despite Saudi Arabia's recent promises of reform concerning women's rights to drive, travel freely, work on a broader variety of positions and earn equal salaries to men, the reality differs from these pledges. Saudi Arabian women have been facing growing violations in public and private, while detained female activists have been frequently suppressed by official agencies, such as the Presidency of State Security, the Public Prosecution, and the judiciary.

It is noteworthy here that despite the lack of transparency regarding official figures of abused women, the data indicates that violence against women is widespread on a large scale in Saudi Arabia.

The World Economic Forum's report on the gender gap ranked Saudi Arabia 146th out of 156 countries in assessing women's freedoms. Another report on the status of women's rights in Arab and European countries, issued by the World, gave Saudi Arabia zero points for freedom to travel and earn a fair wage. According to the same report, working women in Saudi Arabia are paid 56% less than men.

Despite in 2019 the Saudi Council of Ministers pledging to allow women over the age of 21 to obtain a passport to travel without their guardian's permission, human rights report documents that women are still prevented from obtaining a passport and traveling without their guardian's consent. Their male guardians further track them through an electronic platform called "Absher" used to apply for passports.

The Saudi authorities have not only arrested feminist activists and not tried them but have also tortured them psychologically and physically. According to international reports, women, detained activists were subjected to sexual assault and electrocution by a team of investigators affiliated with "the Saudi Federation for Cyber Security and Programming and Drones (SAFCSP). "

Skyline International affirm that the previous data proved that the Saudi authorities are guilty of many serious violations against Saudi women and female activists, mostly arbitrary detention, torture, and enforced disappearance.

Skyline International rejects the partnership agreement between Saudi Arabia and Real Madrid, making the Kingdom the led sponsor to the Real Madrid Women's team. At the same time, their women suffer immense basic human rights.

Having Saudi Arabia become the lead sponsor of a women's team of a renowned and well-recognized football institution is an unethical stain on Real Madrid and the corporation. We, therefore, call the club presidency to withdraw from the partnership and sponsorship agreement.

Skyline International calls on the Saudi Arabian authorities to release all detained women immediately and unconditionally, drop all charges against them, and fairly compensate them. We stress that Saudi Arabia's government should implement all of its promises and lift all restrictions on Saudi women's fundamental rights, including their right to choose who and when to marry.

Thank you for your attention in advance and I hope for a response from your organization to meet this challenge together.

Best wishes,

Skyline International Foundation for Human Rights