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FIFA  
Att. Mr Jerome Valcke  
Secretary General  
FIFA- strasse 20  
8044 Zurich  
Switzerland

Hoofddorp, 6 May 2008

Dear Mr Valcke,

I must draw your attention to the situation existing in Colombia with respect to the non-application of and non-compliance with the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, by the Colombian Football Association and its affiliated clubs.

This situation is not new, and I have taken the opportunity of saying so directly to Mr Luis Bedoya, President of that Association, in letters that I sent on 22 January and 27 February 2007, inviting him to negotiate the status of Colombian players with our affiliate, the Colombian Association of Professional Players (ACOLFUTPRO), an agreement that still has not materialized at the present date, despite the fact that the matter has been under negotiation since 24 August 2004.

It is paradoxical that, despite the fact that Mr Bedoya stated in his replies of 31 January and 27 February 2007 that the complaints of ACOLFUTPRO had no foundation whatsoever, *"and that in all those matters that are imperative requirements of FIFA, (The Football Association) has always adhered to the guidelines of the supreme governing body of global football, it being understood that the guidelines for obligatory fulfilment by its associates had already been entirely included in the proposed text of the Status of the Player"*, that statement does not correspond with reality, if FIFA verifies what Status of the Player has applied in Colombia since 1 August 2004.

This regulation does not comply with the mandatory regulations that FIFA ordered to be included in National Statutes with effect from 01 July 2005, nor have the aspects of this status been modified that ought to have been submitted to FIFA for approval before 30 June 2007.

Thus, labour disputes that arise between a club and a player in Colombia are resolved nowadays by the Commission on the Status of the Player (Article 76), a body that is not competent to resolve labour disputes under the parameters established by FIFA in Circulars 1010 and 1129, as the Commission consists solely of representatives of clubs.



Registration or provisional authorization when a player is in litigation with a club has not been regulated in Colombia, so the club is permitted to violate his fundamental rights at work.

In the same way, the principles of contractual stability are not being complied with. Clubs are permitted to terminate contracts of employment unilaterally without just cause, or alleging poor performance, without the Football Association imposing the sanctions provided for in Article 17 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.

This situation was brought to the notice of the FIFA Secretary General by the Executive Director of ACOLFUTPRO on 27 July 2007, but no measure or corrective action has been taken on this particular point.

FIFA can see these anomalies for itself if it checks the Status of the Player submitted by COLFUTBOL before 30 June 2007 and compares it with the regulations applied in Colombia, which are published on the web page [www.colfutbol.org](http://www.colfutbol.org) (Status of the Player).

It seems strange to us that Mr Luis H. Bedoya Giraldo, who represents CONMEBOL on the FIFA Commission on the Status of the Player and is also a member of the FIFA Ethics Commission, should permit this irregular situation to continue in Colombia without FIFA intervening so that it ceases to have adverse effects on football players in that country.

I would like to see that FIFA intervene in this matter so that COLFUTBOL agrees with ACOLFUTPRO without further delay on the status of the player in accordance with the FIFA norms and regulations and in keeping with Colombian labour legislation. Therefore I want to suggest to have a meeting between COLFUTBOL, FIFA and FIFPro in Sydney, when we will all be there for the FIFA Congress. Could please propose a suitable date and time for such a meeting?

Kind regards,  
FIFPro

Theo Van Seggelen  
Secretary General

Copy Mr. Jerome Champagne