The best American foreign policy action taken in 2015

The U.S. indictments of FIFA executives could do an awful lot to promote America's standing in the world.

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Unequal grievance mechanisms

Unequal facilities

Two unlevel playing fields
PtG2015 question

Play the Game 2015
Global sport: reform or revolution?
25-29 October, Aarhus - Denmark

My thoughts

Why Soccer's Strongman Is a Bad Role Model for the World
FIFA's imperious president, Sepp Blatter, is poised to win a fifth term using the playbook of the world's slickest dictators.

* Reform or revolution?
“Our legal action has ended. But I am hopeful that the players’ willingness to contest the unequal playing fields—and the tremendous public support we received during the effort—marks the start of even greater activism to ensure fair treatment when it comes to women's sports”

- Abby Wambach, 2012 FIFA World Player of the Year
Every person has a right to claim and enforce his or her rights under this Act, to institute and participate in proceedings under this Act and to refuse to infringe a right of another person under this Act, without reprisal or threat of reprisal for so doing.

Human Rights Code, Section 8
‘Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law’

—Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 8
General Provisions

Article 1 - Name and headquarters
Article 2 - Objectives
Article 3 - Non-discrimination and stance against racism
Article 4 - Promoting friendly relations

Membership

Article 10 - Admission
Article 12 - Member’s Rights
Article 13 - Member’s Obligations
Article 17 - Independence of Members and their Bodies [non-interference clause]

Organisation

Article 20 - Confederations
Article 21 - Bodies
Article 26 - Adoption of and Amendments to the Statutes, [etc.]
Article 61 - Judicial Bodies
Article 65 - Disciplinary Measures

Arbitration

Article 66 - Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)
Article 67 - Jurisdiction of CAS
Article 68 - Obligation [mandatory private arbitration clause]
Non-Interference Clause

* Each Member shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties.

- FIFA Statutes, Article 17.1 (See also Article 13.1)

Mandatory Private Arbitration Clause

* Instead of recourse to ordinary courts of law, provision shall be made for arbitration.

- FIFA Statutes, Article 68.3 (See also Article 68.2)

* Autonomy and closed circuit arbitration
The State of Freedom in World Cup Host Countries

Rankings from Freedom House's *Freedom in the World* based on the year each country was awarded the right to host the tournament.

- Not Free
- Partly Free
- Free

**CONCACAF**

- Mexico 1970
- Mexico 1966
- United States 1994

**UEFA**

- Switzerland 1954
- Sweden 1958
- England 1966
- W. Germany 1974
- Spain 1982
- Italy 1990
- France 1998
- Germany 2006
- Russia 2018

**AFC**

- Qatar 2022
- South Korea / Japan 2002

**CAF**

- South Africa 2010

**CONMEBOL**

- Uruguay 1930
- Brazil 1950
- Chile 1962
- Argentina 1978
- Brazil 2014

*Rankings for World Cup hosts are based on the year the tournament was awarded to each country. For those awarded prior to 1972, rankings are based on 1972 figures (the year *Freedom in the World* rankings were first produced).

Sources: Freedom House (rankings); FIFA (World Cup hosts).*
Football Confederations