



The Israel **האיגוד**
Chess **הישראלי**
Federation **לשחמט**

December 26, 2017

To: FIDE Attention- Mr. G. Makropoulos

FIDE'S Offensive and unacceptable behavior about the
World Championship- Saudi Arabia December 25 - 30, 2017

We have read with astonishment the press release published on December 25 on FIDE website and which reads: "FIDE secured visas for Qatar and Iran".

It is not surprising that this press release is not even signed, as it is not only an insult to simple logic but also a shame for FIDE.

There is not even a word in it about the issue of visas to Israeli players, and the "record" of the "logic" of this document comes towards its end:
"As everybody clearly understands from the above, FIDE and Saudi organizer are always ready to welcome any participant ..." On such sentences we say: "To read and not to believe!"

This sentence means that in the eyes of FIDE, Israeli players are not included in the list of "any participant".

Let me state very clearly that the agreement signed with Saudi Arabia federation about the event is totally illegal, contradicting FIDE statutes - Article 1.2. a, not having an official form which every bidder for an event in FIDE should fill, and therefore should be immediately cancelled.

I am aware of the fact that it is impractical to cancel the event today, but before considering taking legal actions against FIDE and/or against those who signed this contract **I am demanding, in the name of the Israeli Chess Federation the following:**

1. As mentioned, **to cancel immediately the contract with Saudi Arabia federation about organizing the same event in 2018 - 2019.**
2. **To compensate the Israeli players who were denied visas and could not participate in the event.**
3. **To declare that such a case, which ignores the FIDE statutes, will not repeat itself.**

I would appreciate an answer to this letter in the coming days.

Dr. Zvika Barkai

Chairman Of The Israeli Chess Federation

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