**Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

FIFA-Strasse 20,
P.O. Box 8044 Zurich, Switzerland

12.02.19

Sfântu Gheorghe/Sepsiszentgyörgy

To **Mr. Gianni Infantino**

**President**

Dear Sir,

The Mikó Imre Association for the Protection of Minority Rights was founded by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania with **the purpose of monitoring, signalling and thus combatting discrimination of all sorts against the Hungarian community in Romania**. The main objectives of the association are advocating for the rights of the Hungarian minority in Romania on the national and also on the international level, as well as to signal any form of discrimination or hate speech affecting Hungarians to the international community.

It is important to know that the Hungarian minority of Romania is the largest ethnic minority in Romania, making up 6.1% of the total population. Hungarians mostly live in the region of Transylvania, where they comprise the majority of the population in an area known as Székely Land (Ținutul Secuiesc, Székelyföld), which includes Harghita and Covasna counties and parts of Mureș county.

**It is highly unfortunate and we truly regret to find ourselves in the situation of having to point out the unsportsmanlike and racist attitude of some Romanian supporters during a football match in Sfântu Gheorghe (a city located in Székely Land) between the local team, Sepsi OSK and FC Dinamo** **București, on the 9th of February 2019.**

We have signalled similar xenophobic attitudes before, which in our opinion have become a common phenomenon among some Romanian supporters. It became commonplace for some Romanian supporters to use football events in order to spread ethnically and racially motivated hatred. **At the aforementioned game on the 9th of February, the supporters of Dinamo București were continuously chanting the following: ”*Out with Hungarians from our country!*” This message makes our community highly uncomfortable, uneasy and fearful. For us to see something like this live on television while we watch a game, namely that some people cannot tolerate our existence in this country**, is almost unbearable. We cannot emphasise enough how much strain this type of behavior puts on our community that fears for its safety at times like this.

**Moreover, one of the supporters of Dinamo jumped into the area of local supporters and stole the flag of the Sepsi OSK team, which was put up by the local supporters. This was the moment when the gendarmerie had to step in to stop him**.

It is important to mention that the supporters of Dinamo also displayed a banner with the following inscription: “Only Romania, only Dinamo București, without autonomy on Romanian Land”. Furthermore, during the game, the fans of Dinamo threw petards on the football field and on the supporters of the local team.

We believe that international football organizations, such as FIFA have the capacity to successfully stand up at times like these. **Therefore, we kindly ask you to sanction this behavior with the utmost severity, in order to send out the clearest signal possible, that sport is not about hatred and intimidation, but about fair play and respect for each other.**

Yours sincerely,

Erika BENKŐ

director

Mikó Imre Association for the Protection of Minority Rights