

## FUCK FIFA!

The World Cup is larger than ever (expanded to feature forty-eight teams to appease broadcasters and at the detriment to players), but football is not FIFA.

How will players and fans in the US respond to this massive global sporting event staged here in 2026?

How will football be reclaimed by the people, who refuse to be complicit in mass death?

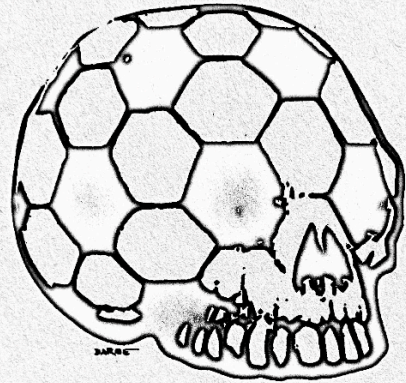
*Autonomous Football League  
NYC, January 2026*

Meanwhile, the US government and US companies like Boeing & Lockheed Martin, provide Israel with billions of dollars & a seemingly endless supply of weapons to commit genocide in Palestine.

FIFA refused the call to remove Israel from competition, even after suspending Russian teams in 2022 as a sanction in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

The Israeli team did not advance to the group stage. The US, Germany, the UK, Canada — all of which provide Israel with military aid — will be playing.

And which corporations are aiding in the sportswashing of the United States' human rights abuses?



**FUCK FIFA**

On the streets and in detention, ICE is carrying out state-sanctioned murders. We've watched as protesters are shot at point-blank range, and know about the medical neglect and brutal abuse. In 2025, thirty-two people died in ICE custody.

As ICE escalates, it's estimated that 73,000 people are being held in immigrant detention, adding to the 2 million people in jails and prisons across the US—the largest incarcerated population in the world.

Trump has confirmed that the Department of Homeland Security will not rule out ICE raids at stadiums. The US gov't has allocated more than \$1 billion for World Cup security and surveillance. We can expect to see increased police presence in all host cities.

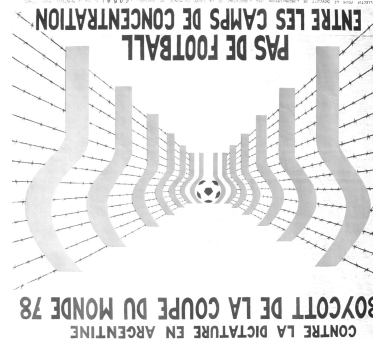
Activists around the world campaigned against the World Cup, calling for players and viewers to boycott the event, where the games were held in close proximity to these black sites.

Tens of thousands of people deemed enemies of the state, however arbitrarily, were imprisoned, tortured, or killed—disappeared into clandestine detention centers, many in high-density cities, hidden in plain sight.

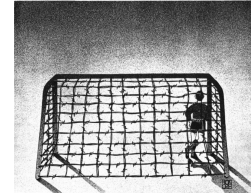
Two years earlier, the military had taken control of the country and installed a dictator: General Jorge Rafael Videla.

This drawing of a soccer ball shaped like a skull is from a political cartoon made sometime in advance of the 1978 Men's FIFA World Cup in Argentina.

Today, football lovers and players prepare for the 2026 Men's World Cup in eleven cities across the US, three cities in Mexico, and two in Canada. Not unlike the situation in Argentina in 1978, a substantially empowered immigration policing apparatus (ICE), is being deployed across the US, kidnapping people off the street, to be held indefinitely in inhumane conditions in makeshift prisons.



A poster made by the Committee for the Boycott of the World Cup in Argentina, a group formed in Paris.



The boycott did not achieve wide appeal. Despite the influx

of a large international community of fans, players, journalists, and governments, there was no substantial increase in awareness of the country's human rights abuses.

Instead, the international presence and Argentina's victory at the games served to normalize the political situation. In a secret agreement, Videla hired an American public relations company (Burson-Marsteller, now Burson) to promote Argentina's military junta in a positive light.

Also in secret, the grounds workers at the World Cup stadiums strategized a form of dissent. Direct forms of protest were extremely dangerous. Courageously, refusing to do nothing, the groundskeepers painted black bands around goalposts in remembrance of the dead and disappeared.

Mothers of the disappeared, continuing to defy bans on public assembly, gathered weekly to march in silence.

