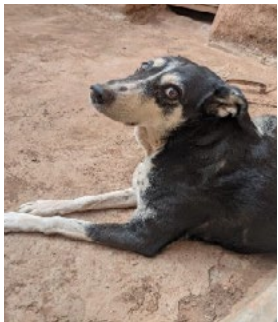




Cleansing the streets of Morocco for a football tournament



3 million dogs are under threat of losing their lives before the 2030 FIFA World Cup kicks off



Executive Summary

1 Before the announcement in October 2023, that Morocco had been chosen to co-host the FIFA World Cup 2030 with Spain and Portugal, the authorities were brutally killing street dogs at a rate of 300,000 a year.

2 After the announcement, the extermination of the dogs has increased dramatically. A FIFA Congress will be held on the 11th December 2024 to ratify the previous October 2023 decision and, if successful, there is the likelihood that Morocco plan the mass slaughter of 3 million dogs.

3 The dogs are poisoned with strychnine which is often injected directly into the bodies of the dogs. Gunmen also cruise urban and rural areas around the clock armed with rifles and pistols. The animals are often badly wounded rather than killed outright and are left to bleed out while thrashing about and screaming in pain. The bodies of some are left where they died to decompose.

4 Footage and witness testimony compiled by the International Animal Coalition – IAWPC shows dogs being hunted down and trapped with medieval clamping devices and without any care whatsoever, are thrown into the backs of trucks to join other terrified animals. ([LINK to FILM](#))

5 Dogs that are caught are taken away to be inhumanely killed in what are becoming increasingly known as ‘fake dispensaries’, where their bodies are either burned in incinerators or dumped in mass graves. Photographs appear to show that not all dogs are dead when dumped.

6 These violent killings and cruel catching practices are frequently carried out in front of children as well as tourists. In September 2023, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issued General Comment 26 (in support of Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – which Morocco has ratified) which states: “Children must be protected from all forms of physical and psychological violence and from exposure to violence, such as domestic violence or violence inflicted on animals”.

7 On the 25th January 2024, the European Link Coalition (ELC) held a meeting at FIFA’s request, with the Head of Human Rights. This followed an ELC official child safeguarding concern being raised with FIFA as a consequence of Morocco brutally targeting and killing ‘tagged’ dogs (those that have been sterilised), ahead of a FIFA visit in relation to the World Cup bid and the fact that children were witnessing this violence. At this meeting, the FIFA Human Rights

Committee acknowledged the research and evidence presented to them and made a commitment “to include the ELC in the human rights assessment process for the 2030 World Cup Bid Book”.

8 The International Animal Coalition – IAWPC – a group comprised of 20 of the world’s respected animal welfare organisations, believes FIFA shares responsibility for the increased massacres which are being witnessed by children, as it has known for some time about this unacceptable violence. FIFA has been sent weekly dossiers of evidence documenting the ‘cleansing’ of street dogs, but has refused to act to protect the dogs, the image of its flagship tournament and world football.

9 In stark contradiction, FIFA continues to state that it is – “committed to organising the Competition (World Cup 2030) following international sustainable event management standards and practices, safeguarding standards and practices and respecting internationally recognised human rights”.

10 There is now growing public concern within Morocco over the brutal killing and catching of dogs, with people taking to the streets to protest. Many of those involved in the public protests, together with others that speak out or are found to be taking film footage and photographs of the killings and catching in their areas, receive threats and intimidation from the authorities.

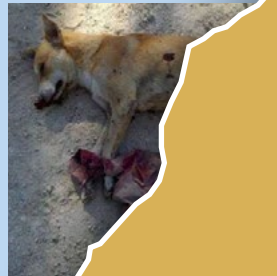
11 The International Animal Coalition – IAWPC is calling on FIFA to use its position to stop the cruel dog killings in Morocco and thus ensure that the rights of the children are protected and that this be included within the Bid Book for the 2030 World Cup. Until this happens, Morocco should be suspended as a co-host. The Coalition is also calling on co-hosts Spain and Portugal and tournament sponsor Qatar Airways to do likewise, otherwise they too will all inevitably be tarnished by association if they fail to do so.

12 Morocco’s King, Mohammed VI, brokered an agreement in 2019 to neuter and vaccinate the country’s estimated 3 million stray dogs. Despite being welcomed internationally, the plan has been ignored by almost all of the country’s authorities.

13 The International Animal Coalition – IAWPC strongly condemns the cruel and unjustified killings and has offered to use its extensive expertise and knowledge to work with the Government to develop and introduce a ‘national comprehensive humane dog management programme’, which includes the mass sterilisation, vaccination and return of the dogs back to the communities from which they came – and belong. This offer has currently been ignored.

'A joyous celebration of our common humanity'

(Morocco, Portugal, and Spain's bid for the FIFA World Cup 2030)



Trapped, poisoned, shot. 'Cleansing the streets' for Morocco's World Cup bid



The International Animal Coalition (IAWPC) is made up of 20 respected international animal welfare, protection and veterinary organisations from around the world, with extensive knowledge and expertise in these areas.

Africa Network for Animal Welfare, Kenya
International Animal Rescue, UK
Animal People, USA
Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, UK
Animals Asia Foundation, Vietnam/China
Mayhew International, UK
Animals Australia
National Council for SPCAs, South Africa
Best Friends, USA
OneKind, UK
Blue Cross of India
RSPCA, UK
Dogs Trust Worldwide, UK
Soi Dog Foundation, Thailand
Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations
WellBeing International, USA
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