

Lad os skabe en bedre verden gennem fodbold

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COMMENT

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Let us make a better world through football

With fundamental changes, more emphasis on love and brotherhood should be featured in the name of football

By Hasan Yahya



Football started as a fun game developed in the city wards. The process that turned this game into one of the most popular sports in the world and an international competition is really quite interesting and deserves to be studied.

As countries represented by national teams politicized football from time to time, friendly matches sometimes brought reconciliation among countries.

Games made in the name of football became the first step for friendship among many fans in the masses that follow football. Football teams assumed the mission of being a role model for their countries and footballers became role models for their societies.

That is why gentlemanly should be an uncompromisable gesture in this sector.

Similar to other major sport competitions, football also has a positive impact on society and could influence international relations. There is, however, an aspect of football that could also be dangerous: fanaticism.

Fanaticism is without a doubt a risky matter not only for this particular sport but also for the fans and all walks of life throughout one's life. A fanatic suffers from a deep-rooted disease that makes him feel the need to know the other party to accept what he knows to be true. Due to this disease fanaticism is frequently associated with violence. This has been the case when it comes to football also.

Acts of violence led by fanatic hooligans have caused some serious injuries related to major events that break out. On the contrary rather than spilling blood because of their fanatic attitudes, these people should behave gentlemanly towards each other.

The acts of these pro-violence people detract from the positive attributes and beauty of the football game. The rivalry, rage and violent attitudes have gone so far that many pundits refer to fans as "frenzied" and other times games end with fans duelling and physically assaulting each other.

Without a doubt, the fact that football turned into an entire industry or economic "sector" has contributed to this phenomenon greatly.

The amount of money that is now involved in this sport has turned this sport into a trade with astronomical budgets that are discussed in the billions. There are also many awards and sponsor fees.

Football has a positive impact on society and could also influence international relations

This situation is easier understood when we realise that FIFA made \$4.5bn in profit solely from the 2014 World Cup.

When we study football with respect to the sociological effects as just mentioned, we see that excitement and exuberance have given way to fanaticism which in turn results in acts of violence and racism.

The media coverage and language used in the industry has a great importance in this respect. For instance, the competitive games between great teams are always covered by the media in a manner that usually incites a malicious competitive spirit.

Exaggerated portraits and comments made before and after these matches add the necessary fuel that incites such behaviours and detracts people from the spirit of the game and virtually turns them into hooligans.

The way fanatics perceive football goes as far as to even make them "die" for the sake of their teams.

Undoubtedly it would be quite possible for a person with this mentality to easily commit murder for his cause.

The fact that these hooligans in question bring weapons such as knives and sticks to the matches is one of the greatest evidences of this. Indeed seeing a football match that is played to make the audience happy, cause the death of many young people is something we are quite familiar with. Sadly this is not a regional problem but a global one.

For instance, when Argentina defeated Peru on May 24, 1984, during the playoffs to the final round, 38 people died and another 100 people were injured.

Following the match between two neighbouring countries, El Salvador and Honduras in the 1970, FIFA World Cup playoffs, a war that lasted 100 hours broke out. The war became known as "The Football War" and caused the death of 2,100 people and left more than 10 thousand people injured. This was due to the intervention of the Organisation of the American States.

Similarly, in the fights that broke out between the fans of Juventus and Liverpool in the European Cup Finals played in Belgium on May 20, 1985, 39 people died and during the match played in Libya on July 14, 1998, 50 people died. In South Africa on April 11, 2001, 43 people died, and in the World Cup playoffs between Côte d'Ivoire and Malawi played on March 20, 2009, 22 people lost their lives.

In 2012, 164 people died and thousands were injured as the fans of the team Al-Masry took the field following the match played in Egypt between the teams Al-Ahly and Al-Masry. A group of fans set the field alight and the Egyptian army had to take action to maintain the order and safety.

All these horrors and how they are only a few of the tragic results brought upon by fanaticism in football. It should be stated that racism in football has also reached worrisome levels as well. The players, referees and fans are easily evoked against and insulted because of their countries, their societal status or religion.

It is important that football is taken out of this horrible vice. The statements of people who incite and carry out the propaganda of fanaticism, violence and racism in football, should not be covered by the media; the media should not support racism and fanaticism. Precautions against racist thoughts or a fanatic and violent mindset should be taken. An education system based on love is of crucial importance in this respect.

It is a known fact that acting on prejudice is the basic characteristic of people who are loveless, inhuman, accusatory and discriminatory against others. It should not be forgotten that disdain, refusal, isolation and exclusion that appear together with prejudice would foment hatred, violence and atrocities among some people.

With a specific education targeting football fans, it would be possible to turn the soccer sector into an educational environment that would lead people positively. This important and far-reaching sports industry should no longer be conceived as a source of hooliganism or anger-fueled competition and violence. With fundamental changes, more emphasis on love and brotherhood should be featured in the name of football. The responsibility falls onto football teams, media and the soccer clubs/footballers in this respect.

From arts to manufacturing, every sector has a great responsibility for attaining the world to love. Football organisations around the world should definitely partake in such a responsibility also.

Fodbold startede som et sjovt spil iblandt den britiske arbejderklasse og udviklede sig i byernes gader. Den proces, der har forvandlet dette leg til en af de mest populære sportsgrene i verden, og endda en international konkurrence er ganske interessant og fortjener at blive undersøgt.

Lande der bliver repræsenteret som landshold er til tider blevet politiseret i fodbold fra tid til anden, og venskabskampe har til tider forsonet mellem forskellige landene.

Gestus lavet i denne sport er blevet det første skridt for venskab blandt mange fans, der følger fodbolden. Fodboldhold har fået opgaven om at være rollemodel for deres lande og fodboldspillere blev rollemodellerne for deres samfund.

Det er derfor en gentleman gestus, ikke noget man bør glemme i denne sektor.

Lignende andre store sportskonkurrencer, har fodbold også en positiv indvirkning på samfundet og kunne påvirke internationale forbindelser. Der er dog et aspekt af fodbold, der også kan være farligt: fanatisme.

Fanatisme er uden tvivl en risikabel sag, ikke kun for denne særlige sportsgren, men også for alle trosretninger og alle samfundslag gennem hele ens liv. En fanatiker lider af en dybt rodfæstet sygdom, der gør at han får behovet for at tvinge den anden part til at acceptere, hvad han mener, som skulle være sandt. Af denne grund er fanatismen ofte forbundet med vold. Dette er også tilfældet, når det kommer til fodbold.

Voldshandlinger der bryder ud, har været ledet af fanatiske hooligans som har forårsaget nogle alvorlige skader i forbindelse med deres store slåskampe. I stedet for at spille blod på grund af deres fanatiske holdninger, bør disse mennesker opføre sig som en gentleman over for hinanden.

Disse handlinger af pro-voldelige folk afleder opmærksomheden fra de positive egenskaber og skønheder en fodboldkamp har. Rivaliseringen, raseri og voldelige holdninger er gået så langt, at mange kommentatorer refererer til holdene som "ærkerivaler", og ofte gange ender kampene med at fans duellere og angriber hinanden fysisk.

Uden tvivl er det et faktum, at fodbold er dirigeret til være en erhvervsgren eller økonomisk "sektor", har bidraget meget til dette fænomen.

Det beløb, der nu er involveret i denne sport har forvandlet det til et marked med astronomiske budgetter, der omtales i milliarder. Der er også mange priser og sponsor gebyrer.

Denne situation er lettere forstået, når vi indser, at FIFA har tjent 4,5 mia. \$ som overskud, udelukkende fra VM 2014.

Når vi studerer fodbold med hensyn til dens sociologiske virkninger som vi netop har nævnt, ser vi at spænding og frodighed har veget pladsen for fanatisme, som igen resulterer op i voldshandlinger og racisme.

Den mediedækning og sprog, der anvendes i industrien har en stor betydning i denne henseende. For eksempel er de betydende kampe mellem store hold altid dækket af medierne på en måde, der normalt opdner til en ondsindet konkurrencebaseret ånd.

Overdrevne portrætteringer og kommentarer foretaget før og efter disse kampe tilføjer den nødvendige brændstof, der tilskynder en sådan adfærd og forringer folk fra ånden i spillet og faktisk gør dem til hooligans

Den fanatiske opfattelse af fodbold er at man vil gå så langt, at man eventuelt vil "risikere døden" for deres hold, som de er tilhængere af.

Utvivlsomt vil det være ganske muligt for en person med denne mentalitet, at nemt begå mord for sin sag. At disse hooligans medbringer våben såsom knive og torne til kampene er en af de største beviser på dette. Dermed at en fodboldkamp, som spilles

for at gøre publikum glade, ender tragisk med at mange unge mennesker dør, hvilket er noget som vi alle kender godt. Desværre er dette ikke et regionalt problem, men et globalt problem.

For eksempel, da Argentina besejrede Peru den 24. maj 1964 under slutspillet i Peru, gjorde nogle fans oprør, og som følge af urolighederne døde 318 mennesker og yderligere 500 mennesker blev såret.

Efter kampen af slutspillet for VM 1970 mellem to nabolande, El Salvador og Honduras, brød en krig ud der varede 100 timer. Krigen blev kendt som "Fodboldkrigen" og kostede 2.100 mennesker livet og efterlod mere end 10 tusinde sårede. Denne krig sluttede med indgriben fra Organisationen af Amerikanske Stater.

Tilsvarende i kampen mellem Juventus og Liverpool i Europa Cup finalen der blev spillet i Belgien den 29. maj 1985, brød der uro ud iblandt fans, hvilket endte med 39 menneskers død, og under en kamp der blev spillet i Libyen den 14. juli 1996, døde 50 mennesker. I Sydafrika den 11. april 2001 døde 43 mennesker, og i VM slutspillet mellem Elfenbenskysten og Malawi der blev spillet den 29. marts 2009, mistede 22 mennesker livet.

I Egypten 2012, efter kampen som blev spillet mellem holdene Al-Ahly og Al-Masry, døde 74 mennesker og tusinder blev såret, da Al-Masry's tilhængere løb på banen. En gruppe af fans påsatte banen i brand og den egyptiske hær måtte indblandes og tage handling for at opretholde orden og sikkerhed.

Alle disse hændelser, vi har nævnt er kun nogle få af de tragiske hændelser som er resultatet af fanatismen i fodbold. Det bør fremhæves, at racisme i fodbold også har nået bekymrende niveauer. Spillere, dommere og fans bliver let mål for hån og fornærmelse på grund af deres lande, deres samfundsmæssige status eller deres religion.

Det er vigtigt, at fodbold er taget ud af denne forfærdelige kultur. De udtalelser fra folk, der opildner og udfører propaganda for fanatisme, vold og racisme i fodbold, bør ikke omtales af medierne; medierne bør ikke støtte racisme og fanatisme. Der bør tages forholdsregler mod racistiske tanker eller en fanatiker og voldelig holdninger. Et uddannelsessystem baseret på kærlighed er af afgørende betydning i denne forbindelse.

Det er et kendt faktum, at handle med fordomme er den grundlæggende kendetegn af folk, der er kærlighedsløst, intolerant, anklagende og diskriminerende mod andre. Det må ikke glemmes at foragt, afvisning, isolation og udstødelse, der vises sammen med fordomme vil anstifte had, vold og grusomheder blandt nogle mennesker.

Med en særlig uddannelse målrettet fodboldfans, vil det være muligt at dreje fodbold sektoren mod et pædagogisk miljø, der ville lede folk positivt. Denne vigtige og vidtrækkende sports industri bør ikke længere opfattes som en kilde til hooliganisme eller anger- drevne konkurrencer og vold. Med grundlæggende ændringer, bør man ligge mere vægt på kærlighed og broderskab i fodboldens navn. Ansvar falder på fodboldhold, medier og naturligvis på fodboldspillerne selv.

Fra kunst til produktionsindustrien; hver sektor har et stort ansvar for at vejlede verden hen til kærlighed. Alle fodbold organisationer rundt omkring i verden, bør absolut også deltage i sådan et ansvar.

Annan Oktars artikel i Gulf Times & Makkah Newspaper:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/story/517474/Let-us-make-a-better-world-through-football>

<http://makkahnewspaper.com/article/370037/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A3%D9%8A/%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AA%D8%B0%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%B7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%82-%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%AF%D9%85>

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