

Chess Club Fortress Alqods

Story of Aborted Glory and Extreme Injustice

Fortress Alqods Chess Club, located in Casablanca, Morocco, was the main rival to the Chess Club Raja chaired by the Moroccan Royal Chess Federation's president, Mr. Mustapha Amazzal. Fortress Alqods recruited the best Moroccan players, namely IM Ali Sebbar and IM Mokhliss Eladnani in addition to elite of international players like GM Vallejo Pons of Spain, GM Bassem Amin of Egypt and GM Mohamed Haddouche of Algeria. Fortress Alqods placed second at the national Club Cup in November 2014, just behind the Raja Club, thus becoming a serious threat to the absolute domination of Raja. Because of the conflicts of interest generated by this situation, the Club Fortress Alqods became the victim of an abusive and illegal suspension administered by Mr. Mustapha Amazzal who created a plot and used his power as the head of the Moroccan Royal Chess Federation by assuming responsibility of a disciplinary commission and adopting a series of decisions against our club as his rival in order to eliminate us and to ensure the domination of his own club at national club championships in Morocco.

The decision for the suspension of the Fortress Alqods Club, which was announced in June 2015, was abusive and illegal on several accounts, namely:

- it violated the International Chess Federation's code of ethics
- it violated the Moroccan physical and sport education's law
- it violated the Royal Moroccan Chess Federation's statute
- the decision for suspension issued by the 'disciplinary commission' was not approved by the Royal Moroccan Chess Federation's directorate, therefore the president could not enforced it, under any circumstances, without prior approval by the executive staff
- the absence of a disciplinary commission within the Royal Moroccan Chess Federation, despite the legal obligation for its existence in order to avoid such abusive instances, does not give the right to the president to make disciplinary decisions without a regulatory reference
- in an abusive manner, the club Fortress Alqods has been denied its legitimate right to appeal, despite the timely lodged request with the Royal Moroccan Chess Federation

In addition to the abusive and illegal suspension of the Club Alqods Fortress, Mr. Mustapha Amazzal authorized transfers of players from Alqods Fortress to other clubs including his own club in order to destroy the strong team of Fortress Alqods composed of the best national players, without respecting the rules of transfers between clubs and without considering the right of Fortress Alqods to use legislative means to protect its interests. These illegal transfers violated the rules for fair competition in the national championship, which is a serious infraction of the FIDE regulations.

Having exhausted all other options, the Fortress Alqods Club resorted to appointing a lawyer in order to revert the abusive suspension and took the case to the courts in July and August 2015, but to our surprise and disappointment, the civil court proved incompetent in such matters and in Morocco there is no sports court. In addition, the Ministry for Youth and Sports refused to intervene. In consequence, Fortress Alqods Club suffered huge losses.

Fortress Alqods Club is obliged to seek a good will from all sides capable to intervene and provide justice for the club and its members.

Below you will find one of the most memorable photos of Fortress Alqods' strong team, lead by IM Ali Sebbar, after winning the second place nationally in November 2014 at the Club Cup and just few months before its abusive and illegal suspension

