

**Said Jdiyoun, FRME First Vice-President**

**Mister President of the International Chess Federation**

Subject:

- 1- Complaint against the President of the Royal Moroccan Chess Federation
- 2- Decisions taken by the majority of the FRME executive office

Mister President,

I have the honor of submitting to you this correspondence, which is both a complaint against the Royal Moroccan Chess Federation's President, Mr. Mustapha Amazzal and a series of decisions made by the majority of the members of the FRME management board that we kindly ask you to take into consideration.

**The facts :**

On October 30, 2016, the FRME Board met to discuss a number of items on the agenda, including a letter by the federation's treasurer addressed to all member clubs in which he denounces a financial embezzlement committed by the president.

At this meeting, the Treasurer presented documents showing that, in July 2015, the President made two transfers from the Federation's bank account to his personal account (see Annex 1) that were not declared in the financial report submitted to the general meeting of 2016, which the members present at the meeting had adopted without being aware of these actions.

We decided to convene a special meeting in order to verify the federation's accounts of the past season.

A few days later, the President surprised us by sending us a circular informing us that the date of the meeting had been delayed and that the members of the Governing Board had no right to verify the federation's accounts but that it was the task of the Ministry for Youth and Sport and to auditors to do so.

The new date for a meeting was set for December 25, 2016 but there was no quorum of at least 8 members, as stipulated in Article 22 of the Federation's Statute, and therefore the meeting was postponed to 7 January 2017.

However, the quorum of at least 8 members, as stipulated in the FRME Statute (see Annex 2) was not achieved for this meeting either.

Faced with this situation of blockage due to the absence of members of the executive board in reaction to their being unable to verify the accounts but their roles being reduced to approving the

accounts without verifying them, the President took the unilateral decision to convene the regular annual General Meeting for February 5, 2017. The agenda of this assembly included the reorganization of the executive office.

The General Meeting scheduled for February 5, 2017 was **canceled** on February 3, 2017 in the afternoon by the **Ministry of Youth and Sports for non-compliance with the federation's statute**. (see the cancellation letter (Annex 3)).

Although this meeting was not held, the President took the unilateral decision to organize the Children Festival, which is the Moroccan Championship by categories, even though the statute does not allow to begin a new season before the annual general meeting has taken place, as indicated in the statutes of the FRME, Article 17 (see Annex 2).

After the FRME's president failed to hold the general annual meeting, he, once again, sent summons to the clubs to attend an extraordinary general assembly in order to dismiss the members of the Bureau who did not agree with him on 12 March 2017, however, this assembly was also **canceled by the line ministry** who judged that the convocation of this meeting did not respect the federation's statutes (see the letter of Annex 4).

Since October 2016, the FRME's president, Mr Mustapha Amazzal, no longer has the support of the majority of the executive members; the Secretary-General, the Treasurer and the Vice-Treasurer make the majority against him and the latter two members no longer sign with him the withdrawals of money from the federation's account. The Federation is experiencing a complete blocking situation and the President wants this blocking to last as long as possible so that club leaders and players may become so disgruntled that the situation would turn into his favor and would serve his intentions to discredit his opponents and make them guilty of what happens, while the majority of the executive board members want to ensure that the public money that the FRME receives from the Ministry is spent according to a program approved by the governing board and in a manner that respects the laws and regulations in force.

Today, Mr. Mustapha Amazzal is confronted with a complaint against him for misuse of public goods lodged before the Court of Appeal of Casablanca on behalf of the majority of the chess federation's governing board and supported by the National authority for protection of public money; the Public Prosecutor's office has entrusted the investigation to the National Judicial Police Brigade.

A large number of national media, in print, electronic, and radio talks have been reporting regularly on this case (see Annex 5).

Mr. Mustapha Amazzal is an official in the supervisory ministry within the Ministry for Youth and Sports and enjoys the support of some of his colleagues who are adamant to drag this matter on and to reinstate him as the head of the federation and drive out his opponents who represent the majority within the federation's executive office.

We do not know how long this situation may last, but as for now, the majority of the FRME's executive members have decided to refer the matter to the FIDE, which is our right in accordance with the FRME statutes, Article 52 (see Annex 2).

As a reminder, on 29 July 2007, Mr. Mustapha Amazzal was sentenced to a three year suspension order by the FIDE Ethics Commission after being found guilty of falsifying norms for international arbitrators. (Case No. 03/2006 (see Annex 6)).

**Offenses committed by Mr. Mustapha Amazzal:**

1- Mr. Mustapha Amazzal makes decisions in the name of the FRME without consultation and approval of the majority of the board of directors. All decisions that he has made singlehandedly since 30/10/2016 are null and void and must not be taken into account by the organizations of which our federation is a member, namely the FIDE, the International Association of Chess of the Francophone countries, the African Confederation of Chess and the Arab Chess Federation.

2. Mr. Mustapha Amazzal, who in addition to being the president of the FRME is also an organizer and has organized tournaments contrary to the FRME statutes (Article 17, see Annex 2), according to which the Annual General Meeting must be held before commencing a new sporting season. The Children Festival, which is a national championship by category took place in Agadir at the beginning of February 2017. Not only he organized this competition contrary the federation's statute, he also **falsified** the results, with the help of the main referee of the competition, by changing the initially adopted rules of the competition after the 5<sup>th</sup> round to favor a player participating in the category - 12 who was a member of the club Raja of Casablanca whose president is Mr Amazzal. The results of this competition were approved and the FRME did not reply to the complaints presented by the father of the young player injured by these irregularities and by the club of which the youth is a member (see Annex 7).

3. Mr. Mustapha Amazzal retains the diplomas sent to him by FIDE and does not hand them over to their owners if they are the ones that do not agree with him. On the other hand, he hands them voluntarily to those who agree with him.

4- Some referees were sabotaged by Mr. Mustapha Amazzal, who either does not present their files by invoking rules that exist only in his head and approved by the rating officer, Mr. Abdelfatah Akkour, or he sends the files but does not pay the arbiters' license fees and does not inform them that they must pay their license before sending their file to the FIDE (cases of Messala Jamal, Adil Elmrabat, Larbi Benyahya, Mustapha Yahya, Aziz Alaissaoui ... (see annex 8).

5- Mr. Mustapha Amazzal sends only Mr. Abdelfatah Akkour to arbitration assignments abroad preventing other Moroccan arbiters from having a chance to improve their level. Thus, we have seen Mr. Abdelfatah Akkour arbitrating at two Olympiads in a row, at Tromso 2014 and Baku 2016; he was the arbiter at the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Prix Mohammed VI in Agadir in 2016 and, before the end of the tournament, he was sent to arbitrate at the Arab Championship by category, which took place in Tunisia; he was appointed as the chief arbiter at the African Clubs Championship in Cairo, Egypt, 24 to 31 July 2017; all these appointments were made without the consent of the majority of the board's members .

6- Mr. Mustapha Amazzal blocked without a good reason and without the consent of the majority of the FRME executive members the approval of the results of the Festival of Chefchaouen, who had a

record number of participants (classic: 229 and blitz: 218) putting once again the reputation of Morocco at stake.

7. Mr. Mustapha Amazzal suspended a national club, The Al-Quds Fortress, for futile reasons whereas the truth is that this club had a very strong team that could threaten the club Raja of Casablanca of which he is the president. The suspension was pronounced by National Disciplinary commission under the pressure of the president. The club has lodged an appeal for more than two years, but the President has managed to prevent the Disciplinary body to meet and hastened to apply the suspension claiming that it was a decision taken by the FRME, which is completely false.

The Law 30-09 (see annex 9) which regulates the Physical Education and Sports speaks of a creation of a two-instance arbitral tribunal reporting to the National Olympic Committee but since the promulgation of this law in 2010, these two instances never saw the light of day and clubs and players aggrieved by the decisions of the FRME's President have no recourse to justice, all the pathways are closed. The only remedy could be provided by the FIDE (Article 52 of the FRME Statutes (see Annex 2)).

***The FRME does not have any disciplinary regulations as required by Article 24 of the Law of Physical Education and Sports, No. 30-09 (see Annex 9), which is in force and which must comply with the disciplinary regulations of the International Sports Federation of which both the FRME and the FIDE are members.***

8- To totally destroy the club Al-Quds Fortress, Mr. Mustapha Amazzal decided to empty it of its players and to achieve this, he has published a circular enabling the transfer after the deadline stating that the decision had been taken by the FRME executive board, which was not the case. (see Annex 10).

9- Mr. Mustapha Amazzal has obliged the member clubs for 3 seasons to pay insurance to the federation for their players while at the same time he was receiving a special subsidy from the Ministry of Youth and Sports for the players' insurance.

10- Mr. Mustapha Amazzal has never agreed to issue a license to the players, nor to keep a register of licensed players and transfers, thus allowing a large number of infractions which he would cover if they were committed by his allies but he would accuse if committed by an opposing party.

No one knows whether player are licensed or not or whether clubs are in regular situation; the president always maintains affairs vague in order to manipulate as it suits him.

It allows transfers even beyond the deadline declaring that they were made within the time limit favoring in the first place the club Raja de Casablanca of which he is the President and then other allied clubs, yet Article 5 of the FRME Statute demands that players and staff are provided with licenses. (see Annex 2).

11- Mr. Mustapha Amazzal received a donation of materials from the FIDE Commission for Schools but he has never reported it to the executive members of the FRME nor has he included this donation in the financial budget or on the list of assets of the FRME.

He gave FIDE erroneous information about the state of chess in schools in Morocco, exaggerating the number of pupils and about the partnership signed with the Moroccan Ministry of Education in December 2014, which in reality has remained a dead letter and has never been activated, which the Ministry in question can easily confirm.

12- Mr. Mustapha Amazzal hides the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings and refuses to make them public so that, subsequently, he can modify and use them according to situations and objectives that he has in mind.

13- Mr. Mustapha Amazzal also conceals the minutes of the general assembly for the same reasons as mentioned above.

14- Mr. Mustapha Amazzal conceals the contents of the contract between the federation and the Ministry of Youth and Sports to avoid being discovered that he does not comply with the entries in this contract. We have in our possession this contract for the 2015-2016 season (see Annex 11), which we have obtained with difficulty by other avenues.

15- Mr. Mustapha Amazzal conceals the contract of partnership signed with the Ministry of Education in December 2014; by the way, this partnership has never been implemented.

16- Instead of presenting to the general meeting a financial report made by an auditor, as stipulated in the FRME statutes, Article 49 (see Annex 2), Mr Mustapha Amazzal presents a simple certificate drawn up by a mere accountant and makes us believe that it is report by an auditor issued after the audit of the FRME accounts.

#### **Decisions taken by the majority of the FRME Executive Board**

A- To consider that Mr. Mustapha Amazzal has no longer the right to represent the FRME nor to take decisions that bind the FRME since he does not have the majority of votes within the FRME office. Any decision taken by him shall be binding only on his person and not the FRME.

B- To ask FIDE to replace the FRME delegate, Mr. Abdelmoula Lemsioui, by Mr. Zoheir Slami (member).

C- To ask the FIDE to replace the rating officer Mr. Abdelfatah Akkour by Mr. Khalid Becham (member).

D- To appoint Mr. Zoheir Slami as interlocutor with the international bodies **FIDE**, the **African Chess Confederation**, the **Arab Chess Federation**, the **International Francophone Chess Association** and the **Court of Sport Arbitration (TAS)**. All letters sent to the majority of the members of the FRME Governing Board should be addressed to him. Mr. Zoheir Slami is also authorized to act on behalf of the executive majority in all matters relating to its relations with international bodies. We empower him to sign on our behalf the correspondences with these international bodies.

E- To file a complaint with the FIDE Ethics Committee against Mr. Mustapha Amazzal in order that it may take the necessary measures regarding the offenses committed by Mr. Mustapha Amazzal as quoted above.

F- To involve, if necessary, the Court of Arbitration for Sport of Lausanne.

Please accept, Mr. President, my most distinguished regards.

Signed

Documents submitted

Annexes 1 - 11