

EMAIL

Mr. Prayut Chan-o-cha
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

E-mail: prforeign@gmail.com

Zurich, 23 January 2019
SG/fad/agr

Hakeem Al-Araibi

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

We are contacting you regarding the very worrying situation of Mr. Hakeem Al-Araibi, a football player and Bahrain national.

Mr. Al-Araibi is currently being detained in prison in Thailand awaiting the outcome of extradition proceedings to Bahrain. This situation should not have arisen, in particular, since Mr Al-Araibi now lives, works and plays as a professional footballer in Australia, where he has been accorded refugee status.

When according refugee status to Mr Al-Araibi, the Australian authorities concluded that Mr Al-Araibi is at serious risk of mistreatment in his home country. As stated publicly on several occasions, FIFA is therefore respectfully urging the authorities of the Kingdom of Thailand to take the necessary steps to ensure that Mr Al-Araibi is allowed to return safely to Australia at the earliest possible moment, in accordance with the relevant international standards.

We strongly believe that this course of action will do justice not only to Thailand's obligations under international law, but also to basic human and humanitarian values, which we know your country and government hold dear.

In that respect, we would therefore like to kindly ask for a meeting with a high-level representative of your government at the earliest possible convenience. The objective of the meeting would be to discuss the situation of Mr. Al-Araibi and receive first-hand information on the status of the proceedings. The meeting would be joined by representatives from FIFA and FIFPro, the global union of professional football players.

We look forward to your timely response on this urgent request and sincerely thank you for your efforts towards a humane outcome of this matter.

Yours sincerely,
FIFA



Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

Cc: Mr Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat Minister of Tourism and Sports