

# Decent Work

## Fair Play for all teams

BWI material about the Sports Campaign Decent Work #1/2015

**THE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF FIFA MET  
ON DECEMBER 2, 2010.**

**THE 22 ELDERLY MEN ON  
THE COMMITTEE CHOSE  
RUSSIA TO HOST  
THE 2018 FIFA WORLD CUP,  
WHILE THE 2022 WORLD CUP  
WAS AWARDED TO QATAR.**





## **THE DECISIONS WERE MADE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, AND FROM WHAT WE KNOW, IT WAS ALL ABOUT MONEY – QUITE A LOT OF MONEY.**

When the gentlemen decision-makers of FIFA meet, they do it in secret in a closed meeting. This is why we don't know how the two host countries were picked. Based on all the frequent accusations and allegations about bribery and other thieving tricks, we can only speculate that these ageing men were hoping for riches and luxury. But we definitely know that the World Cup is all about money. Sponsorship agreements, media rights and governments that grant FIFA and sponsors exemption from taxation and other exclusive rights are crucial factors.

The decisions have been criticized. Russia and Qatar have been accused of irregularities in connection with their applications. Russia's hosting of the Cup has been questioned after the country's actions in Ukraine. It is also believed that the decision to let Qatar play host to the World Cup will jeopardize the health of the players. It is dangerous to play games in 45-degree Celsius heat, the usual summer temperature in the Gulf States.

Global sports events like World Cups are a source of dreams. A sole roll by Neymar, a free kick by Pirlo or a spectacular save by Neuer will encourage millions of young people to try again and again to copy what they have seen in World Cup stadiums.

The investments to prepare for these tournaments also give birth to dreams about jobs and improved living conditions. Millions of migrant workers from Central Asia are making their way to Russia to help build the facilities for the 2018 World Cup. The workers on construction sites in Qatar come from Nepal, India, Bangladesh and other South Asian countries. Since the arrangements for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, BWI, the Building and Wood Worker's International, has presented a list of demands to FIFA, other athletic organizations and the host countries. In our opinion, it is obvious that Fair Play applies to all teams, including the work teams on construction sites.

BWI's Sports Campaign, Decent Work, has been successful in many ways. Unions in South Africa, Brazil and Ukraine have gained new members. Strikes and other actions have led to improved working conditions. The profit-seeking sports organizations, such as FIFA, UEFA and IOC, put detailed demands on the host countries. But they stubbornly refuse to require that fundamental human rights be observed in working life. Their attitude leads to crushed dreams, human tragedies and growing opposition. At the moment, they are sacrificing thousands of human lives in Russia and Qatar. The building workers of the world demand Fair Play.

A close-up, profile shot of a construction worker. He is wearing a bright orange hard hat, a dark brown beanie, and a blue quilted jacket over a grey and white patterned sweater. He is also wearing green and white work gloves. He is looking off to the right with a serious expression. The background is a blurred construction site with wooden framing.

**NO WORLD CUP OR  
OLYMPICS WITHOUT  
UNION AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS.**



## “IT’S CHAOS IN THERE. IT’S BEEN LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME”

The Zenit Arena, the World Cup stadium in Saint Petersburg, is situated on Krestovsky Island and has a view over the Gulf of Finland. To go from the construction site to the metro station, you have to walk one kilometer and cross a park. Most building workers who exit the turnstile in the blue fence surrounding the work site are in a hurry to get home. But Natalia takes the time to chat with us.

“It’s chaos in there. It’s been like that all the time.”

She provides service to the construction workers and meets many of them every day.

“They are upset about most things, especially the shortage of water and the fact that too many workers have to share the facilities for showering and washing.”

Natalia has been working on the site since the beginning. She has witnessed all the delays and changes revolving around this billion-dollar construction project. The arena was scheduled to be opened in 2008. According to the latest information, it will be inaugurated in 2017 for the FIFA Confederations Cup.

Not too many workers leave the site in the evening. The majority of the 2,000 who work there also live within the fenced-in area.

“They come from Southern Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan,” says Natalia.

According to the building workers’ union, half a million migrant workers are active in the Saint Petersburg region. Only one out of five workers has a work permit. Their vulnerability is being exploited by their employers.

“They live in those barracks over there,” continues Natalia, pointing to one of many two-story rows of sheds for lodging the workers, which can be seen over the fence.

We could glimpse bunk beds through the windows. A few of the people living in the barracks crack a window open. They tell us that they are Uzbeks. That is all they will tell us.

Said, a reinforcer, tells us a little more while walking to the metro.

“We live four and four in each barrack. There are four beds and one heater. Twenty people share the shower, toilet and cooking facilities.”

According to the Russian union for construction workers, arranging living accommodations for workers at sites is not permitted. But they noted at the same time that the former Soviet law which forbids this has been abolished. A new law is in progress, but at the moment, it is not illegal.





Said, who hails from Tajikistan, is dissatisfied with the living conditions but says they will have to do.

"I'm here for the money. My wages aren't so bad."

There is a wide gap between wages. Natalia earns just above 240 euro per month. BWI has interviewed 14 of the workers building the arena. Their monthly wages averaged 430 euro. This is the average for the industry in Saint Petersburg.

The construction site is messy and dark. Transstroy, the main contractor, is using approximately 80 subcontractors but has not kept track of the number of companies that have hired other firms.

Alexander Tanasi, Vice President of the regional branch of the construction workers' union, does not exactly know how many workers are involved at the arena site and it is somewhat unclear if any of the participating companies have collective agreements.

"But we are currently negotiating an agreement for the industry in the region. We will push hard to ensure that it applies to several of the companies operating here," he says.

Said shrugs a little when the union is mentioned. "No comment", he says.

"But the World Cup is good in his opinion because it creates jobs."

**SAID EARNS 40,000  
RUBLES A MONTH,  
ABOUT 535 EURO IN  
JANUARY 2014, AFTER  
TAXES. TO MAKE THAT  
AMOUNT OF MONEY,  
HE HAS TO WORK 50 OR  
60 HOURS A WEEK.**





## MIGRANTS FROM CENTRAL ASIA AND THE BALKANS WERE ATTRACTED BY PROMISES OF FAIR WAGES, WHICH IN MANY CASES TURNED OUT TO BE WORTHLESS.

Eleven cities in Russia will be staging matches when the country hosts the 2018 World Cup. In October 2014, President Vladimir Putin said that Russia will invest USD 16 billion to prepare for the event. Transport links, airports, subways and railways will be built in addition to stadiums.

But the experience from Russia's preparations for the Winter Olympics has raised fears about working conditions. At least 70 construction workers died at Olympic sites. This appalling figure has been officially confirmed according to Boris Soshenko, President of the Russian Federation, Construction and Building Materials Union.

The city of Sochi normally has 10,000 working in construction. However, close to 100,000 workers were involved in building projects during the years before the Olympics. Migrants from Central Asia and the Balkans were attracted by promises of fair wages, which in many cases turned out to be worthless. There are many testimonies about fake contracts, unpaid wages and punishment inflicted on those who dared to protest. Unscrupulous employers were backed by government authorities and purchased guard services from private security companies.

BWI is now very concerned that this problem will surface again during the preparations for the World Cup in Russia. A plan has been devised together with the Russian Federation to organize workers, get agreements signed and monitor labour conditions.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN agency, there were 14 million migrant workers in Russia in 2012. Half of them worked in the construction industry. Many will travel to the host cities, hoping to find work.



**MANY WILL TRAVEL TO THE  
HOST CITIES, HOPING TO  
FIND WORK.**





## RUSSIA'S ARENAS

### LUZHNIKI STADIUM, MOSCOW

Arena for the finals with seating capacity for 81,000.  
Renovated by a contractor who has agreements and provides good working conditions, according to the Russian Federation.

### ZENIT ARENA, SAINT PETERSBURG

Seating capacity: 69,000.  
Being renovated since 2006. Approximately 2,000 employees. Few companies have agreements.

### OTKRITIE ARENA, MOSCOW

Seating capacity: 46,000.  
Opened in autumn 2014. Newly built home arena for Spartak Moscow.

### KAZAN ARENA, KAZAN

46,000 spectators were on location for the opening in 2013.  
Home arena for Rubin Kazan.

### CENTRAL STADIUM, YEKATERINBURG

Being expanded to seat 45,000 spectators.

### FISHT OLYMPIC STADIUM, SOCHI

Arena used for the opening of the 2014 Winter Olympics, seats 47,000 spectators.

### SAMARA STADIUM, SAMARA

Construction will start in 2015.  
The union in Samara hopes that a local contractor will be used that has collective agreements.

### VOLGA STADIUM, NIZHNY NOVGOROD.

To be started in 2015. Will seat 45,000 spectators.

### NEWLY BUILT STADIUM, KALININGRAD

Seating capacity: 45,000. The city does not have teams playing in the Russia Premier League.

### STADIUM YUBILEYNIY, SARANSK

Construction started in 2010. When the city was appointed a World Cup host, the project was expanded. After the stadium was opened, Mordovia, a second division team, has been playing there.  
Seating capacity is for 45,000 spectators.

### LEVBARDON ARENA, ROSTOV ON DON

Major investments in infrastructure were launched in 2014. Construction will start in 2015.  
Seating capacity: 45,000.

### POBEDA STADIUM, VOLGOGRAD

A rebuilt arena seating 45,000 spectators. Pobeda means "victory".  
This is the city (formerly called Stalingrad) where the Russians stopped the Nazi army offensive in World War II.



### FACTS RUSSIA

**Inhabitants:** 142 million.

**Life expectancy:** 70 years.

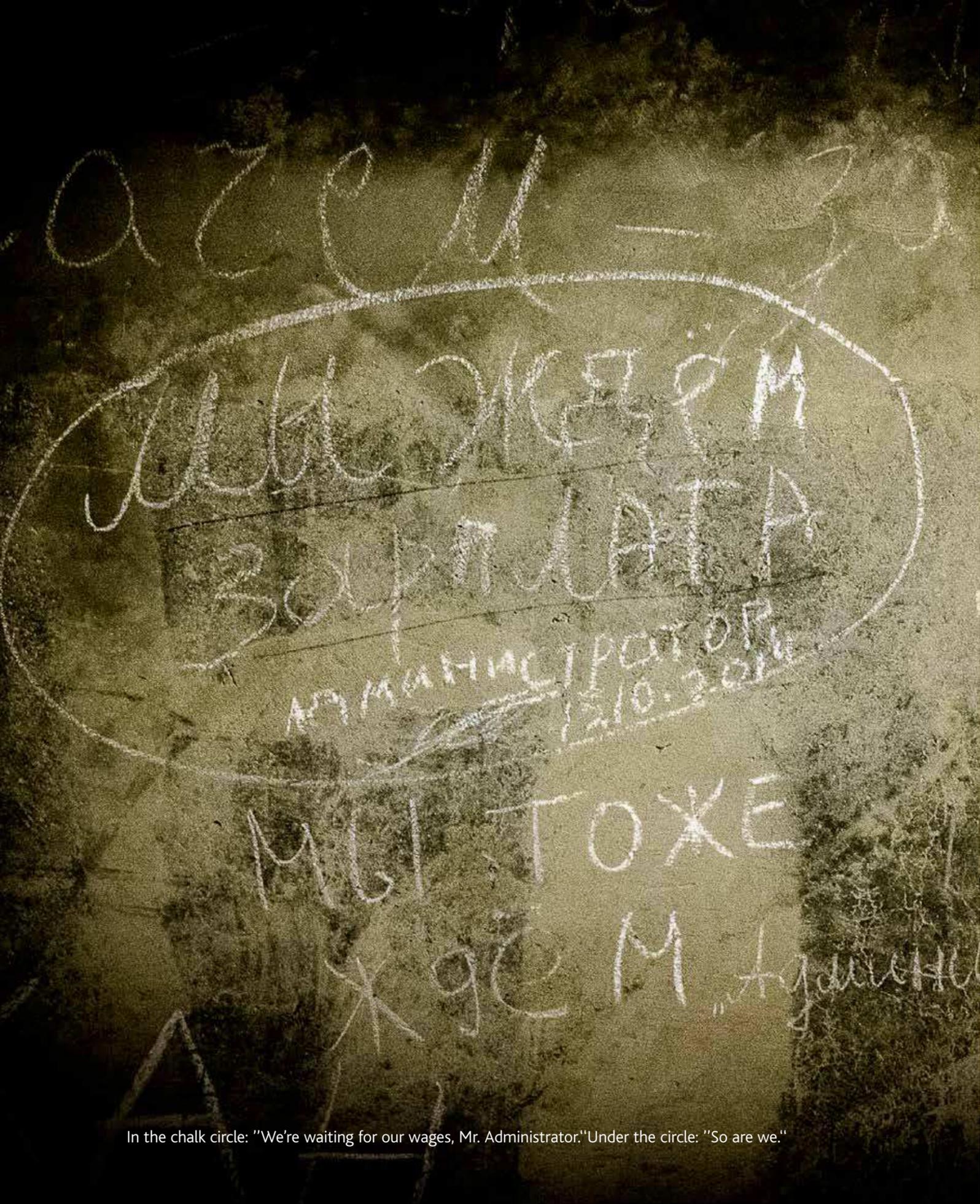
**Land area:** 17 million square kilometres, largest in the world.

**Government:** Vladimir Putin was elected President in 2012 for a six-year term.

Putin's party, United Russia, dominates parliament, called the Duma.

**Unemployment rate:** 5.8 percent (2013).

**Trade unions:** The Russian Federation, Construction and Building Materials Industry Workers' Union, has organized less than 10 percent of the country's three million construction workers.



In the chalk circle: "We're waiting for our wages, Mr. Administrator." Under the circle: "So are we."



## SHOW YOUR SOLIDARITY – MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLIDARITY FUND OF THE SWEDISH BUILDING WORKERS' UNION

You can make a contribution to ensure that construction workers in other countries will have the opportunity to demand better labour conditions! By donating SEK 100 every month to the Solidarity Fund, you will increase the chances for unions to actively fight for better working conditions. As you have seen on previous pages, the conditions are often worse than your own.

The Solidarity Fund of the Swedish Building Workers' Union is conducting projects in many countries near and far. The Fund is currently focusing on the situation for migrant workers, especially those working in the Gulf States. The Fund's money is being used to give them the possibility to organize. However, money from the Fund is also being utilised for projects in a number of countries, and in some cases, for regional projects. BWI, the Building and Wood Worker's International, is participating in all projects and almost all are also receiving funding from Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

If you would like to influence how these funds are spent, please send your suggestions to the Swedish Building Workers' Union.

We need more people to contribute! If we all give SEK 100 (almost equivalent to 10 euro) each month, it will make a difference. Make your contribution to "Byggnads Solidaritetsfond" using the postgiro number 30200-0, or set up an automatic direct debit ("autogirering") from your account with your bank.

Show your solidarity – make your contribution to the Solidarity Fund of the Swedish Building Workers' Union. Together, we are strong!



## CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN RUSSIA AND SWEDEN

	RUSSIA*	SWEDEN
<b>Net Wages**</b>	2.47 euro per hour (+32 %)**	14.66 euro per hour
<b>Number of times wages are sufficient to cover the minimum cost of living</b>	4.5 according to the norm; 0.7 according to the union	1.8
<b>Maximum number of legal weekly work hours</b>	40 hours	40 hours
<b>Total number of fatal accidents in the construction industry</b>	68 members in unions; one out of 10 victims were union members	7
<b>Number of fatalities per 100,000 employees</b>	23	7
<b>Percentage that are union members</b>	About 10 percent	68 percent
<b>Monthly cost of living</b>	310 euro	765 euro (+ 18 %)**
<b>A typical grocery bag contains</b>		
Chicken, 1 kilo	1.81 euro (+ 20 %)**	3.67 euro (+ 9 %)**
Bananas, 1 kilo	0.72 euro (-1,5%)**	2.51 euro (+ 9 %)**
Rice, 1 kilo	0.59 euro (+ 9 %)**	2.72 euro (- 7 %)**
Sunflower oil, 1 litre	0.86 euro (- 9%)**	3.04 euro (+ 3 %)**
Toilet paper, 4 rolls	1.10 euro (+ 52%)**	2.83 euro (- 12 %)**
<b>All five goods</b>	5.08 euro (+ 15%)**	14.77 euro (unchanged)**

\*Russia's currency, the ruble, is in a crisis situation. Prices in the table have been recalculated into euro using the exchange rate effective on January 12, 2015. \*\*After taxes are deducted. \*\*\*Change since 2012 in national currency.





 **BYGGNADS**  
www.bygnads.se

 **Rakennusliitto**  
www.rakennusliitto.fi

**Elektrikerna**  
www.sef.se

 **FACKET FÖR SKOGS-, TRÄ-  
OCH GRAFISK BRANSCH**  
www.gs.se

 **seko**  
www.seko.se

 **Svenska  
MÅLAREFÖRBUNDET**  
www.malareforbundet.se

**UNIONEN**  
www.unionen.se