



FIDE ETHICS COMMISSION

The Ethics Commission (hereafter called the ETH), sitting in the following composition -

Chairman: Mr Francois Strydom
Members: Mr Willy Iclicki
Mr Ion Serban Dobronauteanu
Mr Rajesh Hari Joshi
Secretary: Ms Elli Sperdokli (non-voting)

during the meeting held in Madrid on 7 April 2017, made the following -

DECISION

Case no. 4/2016: - “Alleged improper financial contribution and non-disclosure in regard to 2014 ACF elections”

1. The ETH **notes** the absence of its member, Mr Pedro Dominguez Brito, but **confirms** that the four members present constitute a quorum.
2. The ETH **notes** the complaint of Mr Shaker Al Afoo (“the complainant”) against Mr Hisham Al Taher (ACF General Secretary), Mr Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh (ACF Treasurer) and the Bahrain Mind Sports Association (jointly “the respondents”) in regard to financial assistance given by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF) allegedly to influence the 2014 ACF elections.

3. The ETH **notes** the contents of the defensive statements filed by each of the three respondents as well as Mr Al Afoo's reply.
4. The ETH **notes** the complainant's request for the recusal of the Asian representative on the ETH on the basis of a potential conflict of interest, but **finds** that the investigation has disclosed no grounds which require Mr. Rajesh Hari Joshi to recuse himself and **rejects** the request for the recusal.
5. The ETH **decides** that it enjoys the necessary jurisdiction because the case was not properly judged at the ACF General Assembly in August 2016 or at another time and **decides** further that case no. 4/2016 is receivable because Mr. Al Afoo has a personal interest in the case for being a member (until the election) of the ticket of Mr. Pitchay at the 2014 Asian Continental election.
6. The ETH **notes** that the proof relied upon in support of the allegation of corruption was a letter sent by the ACF General Secretary Mr. Hisham Al Taher to the Secretary General of Bahrain Mind Sport Association on 27 December 2014.
7. The ETH **notes** that although it may have been justified for Mr. Al Afoo to bring a complaint to the ETH, it **records** that the ETH cannot find any merit in or ground for the allegation that the financial assistance was given with a corrupt purpose.
8. Accordingly, the ETH unanimously **rules** that:
 - 8.1 The respondents are **not guilty** of any violation of art. 2.1 or 2.2.2 of the FIDE Code of Ethics.
 - 8.2 The case no. 4/2016 is dismissed.
9. The ETH **undertakes** to furnish its written motivation with full reasons for the above-mentioned decisions within one (1) month hereof.
10. The ETH **requests** the FIDE Secretariat to communicate this decision to Mr Shaker Al Afoo, Mr Hisham Al Taher, Mr Mehrad Pahlevanzadeh, the Asian Chess Federation and the Bahrain Mind Sports Association and to publish the decision on the FIDE website.

DATED ON THIS THE 18th DAY OF APRIL 2017

F P Strydom

CHAIRMAN

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