

locals once the event is over. we consider the questionable benefits for resources, which weighs even heavier when infrastructure projects naturally ties up constructing new stadiums and developing hundreds of thousands of fans. In addition, by transport and accommodation for the as a large part of the climate impact is caused problem does not lie solely with the sport itself, more than Iceland emits in an entire year. The CO2 over the course of the four weeks. That is Cup in Qatar will produce 3.6 million tonnes of is huge. Estimates predict that the 2022 World The ecological footprint of major sporting events answers from the organizers warming. Many people want clear sign of the effects of global that FIFA never opposed. in Tokyo's Summer Olympics is a wetland as "wasteland", an assessment that many athletes suffered in 2021

replanted. That is a mere 0.4 percent of day only 184 trees are said to have been gered animals. But that isn't all: to this Korea), and a large number of endanginseng tree (the national tree of South Many species suffered, including the water bird colonies and also cleaned the clearing 58,000 trees for the ski slopes. make sure nothing stood in the way of a nature reserve of its classification to up to the games, authorities stripped assessment of the project. In the run-"Mission failed" is the matter-of-fact

produced. but also to save more CO2 than they posed to not only be climate neutral, mentally friendly. The games were sup-Committee also claimed to be environ-Winter Olympics. Here, the Olympic Cup in Russia, South Korea hosted the In the same year as the football World 2018 Winter Olympics

mental protection" and categorized the stadium as "contributing to environ-Cup officials judged the building of the standards. Unscrupulous local World cities to meet environmental protection the World Cup, FIFA obliged the host For the first time in the history of polluted Pregolya River.

nature reserve was a former sanctuary for Kaliningrad Stadium. The wetland of sand to create stable ground for the ed, filled in with over one million tonnes the last wetland in the city was destroy-Ahead of the 2018 World Cup in Russia, 2018 Football World Cup

are empty promises. "low-carbon Olympic Games" to fuel destruction, and labels like the these large sporting events continue natural resources. But the reality is that about the ongoing destruction of our

or offset them. The heat and humidity reduce the impacts of the tournaments sively promoting their attempts to that the organizers have been offennew. It is only over the last few years impacts of sporting events is relatively The debate on the ecological

environment climate and the are destroying our How sporting events

Rishi Kumar Kandel landed **Muibo9** ou the No Place

a jacde-ecaje etnak share with your on Gatar. Please tion FairSquare began watch our short film workers, the organizaon the World Cup and t /fairplay for more info www.rosalux.de/en

are not forgotten.

know that their loved ones tamilies of the deceased to

bnif of belledmoD oncerns violent crime. be conducted when it No. 2 of 2012" that states criticize the Qatari "Law rights organizations often Rishi Kumar Kandel. Human many construction workers suffered the same fate as It is difficult to say how

be a lot higher. have died on the World Cup 2021, up to 6500 people will estimated that by February unpaid wages. The Guardian tar, it is not whippings or this type of employment "modern slavery". In Qa-International Trade Union General Secretary of the causes". Sharon Burrow, to them he "died of natural pensation, and according refused to pay any com-

The construction company

particularly hot working day

lying dead in his bed after a colleagues had found him eiH .niffoo a ni ylimaf body was returned to his an agency to find him a job. taken a loan of €500 to bay and family back in Nepal and ons, sharing a room with ten others. He had left his wife bunk bed in cramped conditin ni gniqəəlz əd bluow əh arrived at the camp where day in February 2014. He

Workers with Migrant Solidarity Moys

earn €6200 a month. A migrant

and civil society pressure on FIFA. long-term international economic activists and workers on the ground, a political signal, aiming to secure Cup is that FIFA will also profit from sector have improved slightly, thanks Over the past ten years, working

Workers are also prohibited from uni- the small gains we have made". tical civil society is basically silenced. the migrant workers and undo even freedom of speech, so any form of cri- worried that the initiative may harm supports neither freedom of press nor something, but now it's too late. I'm and has no separation of powers, and initiative could have maybe changed ons: "at an earlier point in time this to pressure from the international sed his disbelief that a boycott could a minimum wage in 2020, responding a migrant worker from Mepal expresis relatively new, as Qatar introduced with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, wage of €230. And even that amount 2022 World Cup. In an interview people began to express their outrage

happen every year. So, why do peop- call it modern slavery. They say Qatar different, and many people affected helped introduce reforms, and so on holding of wages or delay in their

income worldwide: on average, locals

kers sleep in camps, eight to ten to a — withhold their passports to stop them to their employers as sponsors, who migrant workers: nearly 90 percent of have an in-country sponsor. Workers live in Qatar, 2.3 million of which are which requires all migrant workers to Today, nearly three million people monitored by the kafala system, Once in Qatar, migrants are

ons of human rights violations have Agents promise them a good salary laws, and the lack of a football culture—goes unfulfilled. Many workers end corrupt FIFA officials, homophobic from poverty–but this hope often met with criticism, mainly focused on — support their families and save them Peninsula to host. The decision was hope-hope that they will financially oall World Cup to Qatar, which will — from Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.

working and living conditions? But at the same time, Qatar is the top of that, thousands of accidents health and safety measures, and on heat, unpaid overtime, a lack of of 12 hours or more in 40-degree Their lives are tough: daily shift

of <u>Qatari stadiums</u>

in the construction

Working conditions

Equality

Slavery

To bbestenl

emerged. Hundreds of thousands of began in 2010, more serious allegati- loans to pay the high agency fees. in the Gulf state. Since construction — up in debt because they take out In 2010, FIFA awarded the 2022 foot-

schools, hospitals, or the taxpayer money that local ends up deciding how to spend major sporting events, a corrupt elite USD 5-6 billion. This is how, in most Olympic Games bring in between USD 40 billion. On average, the history. The event came to around of the most expensive in Olympic Olympics in Beijing had become one dramatically rise. By 2008, the Summer know all too well how easily costs can Other Olympic host countries dream that such events will have a

former Athens airport Ellinikon. ned amusement park at the site of the this day, there is no sign of the planspiralled out of control. And even to as the point when Greece's debt crisis economists mark the Olympic Games Greece in financial ruin. Numerous The 2004 Summer Olympics in

ments. And in return, they get very litttruction and infrastructure developbenefits from tournaments will last. money is spent, or how long the population that finances stadium conslittle to no influence on how public organizations. Therefore, locals have tee (IOC) are not democratically-run or the International Olympic Commit-What's more, the organizers like FIFA main empty and so do the state coffers. with the departing fans. Stadiums reeuphoria of the tournament disappears the picture is the same everywhere. The From Athens, to Cape Town, to Russia: the reality is often a huge let-down. The rich get richer, rism. In the majority of cases however, lasting positive impact on local tou-

country come away empty-handed. organizers, and the citizens of the host tax-free directly into the pockets of the centres into tax havens. Revenue flows The original budget doubled and left

venues for citizens. Locals are sold a

re as well as the long-term use of sport

large investment in public infrastructu-

Investors promise host countries

Yet it is the tax money of the local sources of income for the organizers. rights. These constitute the main merchandise, ticket sales, and image that companies will make billions in

turns its venues, fan zones, and media

le: during football World Cups, FIFA

ed as a means to brush over human riahts abuse

Before the events begin, it is a given Major sporting events are big business. and the poor get

Medal to Every sabi2 owT

## On Your Marks, Get Set, Go!

In building new stadiums for sports stars, space is taken away from ordinary citizens. Examples of this trend are visible all over the world. In most cases, major sporting events are simply used as an excuse for turbo-capitalism. Investors are not interested in efficient- mega-events. ly making space for new infrastructure projects, their goal is to rapidly develop individual neighbourhoods and earn a lot of money through speculation.

**Beijing: 2008 Summer Olympics** One year prior to the Olympics, in a neighbourhood in Beijing, dramatic eviction scenes played out. "I will protect my house with my life. I will set question were not actually at risk of myself on fire", one resident exclaimed to the media. Authorities relocated a total of 1.5 million people—one in ten residents—for the gigantic project in the Chinese capital. The government denies deaths. Tragically, many of the areas the relocation numbers but it is likely that they were actually much higher. Poor data collection means that officials an excuse to use the land for other only counted permanent residents, expurposes. And most of the already cluding others such as migrant workers. It is assumed that many people affected form of compensation for the destrucby the displacement were driven out of tion of their homes and damage to their apartments and houses by violence, and a large number were forced to accept additional financial losses. All of Displacement and Gentrification this to avoid obstructing the progress 
In Western democracies, evictions

## **Evictions in Favelas**

of the Games was "One World, One

and Informal Settlements The pattern of displacement and eviction for major sporting events continued in Brazil during the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympics. Authorities in Rio de Janeiro "socially cleansed" certain areas as part of a wider strategy to prepare for such events. With over 22,000 families displaced,

> LGBTIQ Rights Major sporting events incite important discussions. During the UEFA Euro 2020 hosts in Munich asked to light up their stadium in rainbow colours as a statement against the anti-LGBTIQ legislation of guest nation Hungary. UEFA declined the request, which only made the protests bigger

a place for its people, but a business truction of new stadiums and infrasfor foreign investors. The city built the tructure development cause real estate Olympic Village for athletes on land where locals used to live. This extreme That is often all it takes to force people move highlighted the absurdity of such to move away. City officials defended their choices

by claiming that natural disasters could have had terrible impacts on the were lies. Prior to the games, during heavy rain and flooding, no one was interested in the safety of residents. What's more, many of the areas in flooding at all. Large-scale evictions from infor-

mal settlements in New Delhi for the 2010 Commonwealth Games led to 18 groups. which had been cleared were not repurposed for the Games, it was simply

locals were outraged. Rio was no longer and by more subtle means. The consand land prices to rise significantly.

Inglewood, near the Californian metropolis of Los Angeles, approved the construction of the world's most expensive stadium, despite widespread poorly-constructed favela housing. It is local protests. The stadium and enterclear, however, that these justifications tainment complex cost USD 5 billion to build and will host the 2026 football World Cup and 2028 Summer Olympics. The rapidly-rising prices are driving out locals, primarily the Black, Hispanic, and Latino communities. By doing so, the authorities are seamlessly carrying forward decades of discrimination against certain demographic

Cases like Inglewood happen elsewhere, too. In London-host of the Euro 2020 final and semi-finals—the expansion of the Emirates Stadium and the new Wembley Stadium, according impoverished locals never received any to reports, raised London's real estate prices enormously. Property in the immediate vicinity of the venues, as well as in neighbouring areas, increased in value by an overall amount of GBP 2 billion.

of the Olympics. Ironically, the motto happen at a much slower pace



Host countries often prohibit or restrict their citizens' right to protest in the run-up to and during spor-ting events. Governments clamp down on protests to avoid drawing international attention to unpopular domestic issues.

Freedom of press Journalists often suffer great estrictions on their freedom of press in the context of big sporting events. Reporters may even be faced with refusal and sometimes even arrested. Those who have reported negatively about a host country may even fear refusal of entry into certain countries.



## All Shine and No Substance

Major events mask repression

regimes, systematically use major spor- prison sentences. ting events to intensify repression as well as to serve their political agendas. Over the past decade such behaviour has been particularly evident in the case of Russia. Since Russia was awaras well as restrictions on press freedom, protesters. have increased. In the run-up to the

Host countries, especially authoritarian rities, while also threatening them with informal settlements in the inner

Russian authorities controlled all forms of public demonstrations in host cities before, during, and after the 2018 World Cup, and only permitted them under very strict conditions. In ded the 2014 Winter Olympics, Putin's the months before the tournament attacks on democracy and civil society, the police arrested at least 33 peaceful

Authorities in Rio de Janeiro, in Olympics, Russian police detained two the run-up to the 2014 World Cup and livelihoods Norwegian TV journalists several times 2016 Summer Olympics, resorted to and prohibited them from contacting drastic measures to control protesters. the Norwegian embassy or the autho- First, paramilitary units cleared out the

city through use of violent force. before the Pacifying Police Unit (UPP) set up 38 permanent posts in the favelas. Countless residents died in the crossfire between the paramilitaries and the drug cartels; many were injured, arrested, and even tortured. People were forced to move away, threatening their

