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زبانهای اروپایی

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BBVA and Santander, first winners of the Qatar World Cup



Sources: The jump

A report by Fair Finance International published this week shows that European banks and companies are among the main beneficiaries of the works of the men's World Cup to be held in Qatar.

Bipana and her husband called each other every day. He, Tul Bahadur Gharti, worked in the works of the Qatar World Cup, where the maximum was 39 degrees and the temperature never fell below 20; she was waiting for him in Nepal, the home country of the two. On the afternoon of May 28, 2020, after a good talk, they said goodbye saying that they would call each other again the next morning. It was the last time they spoke. Bipana waited for you online all day. In the afternoon, the manager of the company he worked for told her that her husband had died in his sleep. Tul Bahadur Gharti was 34

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years old and in good health, and is one of 6,500 workers killed doing the World Cup works, according to an investigation by [The Guardian](#).

In the case of several workers who died working on World Cup construction sites, Medical certificates concluded they died of "respiratory arrest." due to natural causes". Bipana received about \$14,000 between insurance and compensation from the government of Nepal. The company paid him the \$850 he was paid She owed her husband. "I feel like I've wasted my life," she later said. to Amnesty International. Although it seems like a macabre joke, Bipana was lucky. Her countrywoman Mairul Khatun also lost her husband in Qatar: he asked for 1,300 dollars at 48% interest in Nepal to pay for your visa to Qatar. Drowned by The pressure, he ended up committing suicide. Now she lives with the debt he incurred. to work and make possible the men's World Cup, which will begin on Next Sunday 20.

Thirteen years after the choosing Qatar to host the competition, everything is ready to start the show. This country with just three million inhabitants will increase Considerably during a month its population: more than one million fans They will travel there to watch the matches. In the emirate they are already accustomed to the presence of foreigners who far exceed the Qataris, although in quite different circumstances: 90% of people who are there are immigrants.

They are there but do not act as Citizens thanks to the [Kafala](#) system. This system links the immigrants to their employers, who often have their passports confiscated in When they arrive: if the employers fire them, the workers are left automatically outlaw and have no passport with which to Identify yourself to the embassy of your country. Locked in a place where they don't They can work without the sponsorship of another employer, they get stuck in a administrative limbo that facilitates all kinds of abuses: from payment to intermediaries to be able to enter the country until the non-payment of wages during months, going through non-compliance with schedules or payment of a salary much lower than promised in the contract. Sepp Blatter, FIFA President when it chose Qatar as its host in 2009, it recently stated that it He was always against this option and that the choice had been a "[mistake](#)".

Who won?

The Blatter's lament is part of a growing genre in the media of European communication. Media, radio and television lament that Qatar is a dictatorship ruled by a single family, the Al Thani. They remind us that there homosexuality is prohibited, there are no elections or political parties, and Women are subject to a rigorous religious code. They comment that

the World Cup is a work of propaganda at the service of the regime, and spice up with reports of the numerous human rights abuses that are being reported. commit in Qatar. These are days of proposals and drastic measures. Denmark will use a T-shirt with the shield darkened in protest. Some captains will wear armbands claiming the LGTBIQ + collective. Even some European federations have supported FIFA to create a compensation fund for the families of dead workers: 440 million of dollars, the same money that will be dedicated to the World Cup prizes. One Question floats in the air, more discreet: who made money while dying thousands of workers in Qatar?

86,000 million dollars is the amount that banks and financial institutions lent to hotel companies and construction companies that have made the World Cup possible

Fair Finance International has published a report that includes a figure that traces Some answers: \$86 billion. It is the amount that banks and Financial institutions lent to hotel and construction companies that have made the World Cup possible. Half of that money was granted by banks Europeans, led by the Germans, the British and the French. In Spain, BBVA lent 840 million dollars; Santander, 645 million; the Caixa, 136 million. In total, Spanish banks injected 1,843 million of dollars in loans to companies working in Qatar. "We were surprised that the role of the European institutions was so great," he tells El Salto Kees Kodde, Project Manager at Fair Finance International, who adds who have been the winners of the World Cup before the start of the Ball: "Construction companies, hotel companies and the government of Qatar." According to this Dutch political scientist, the financial sector has won Diversifying their investment: "They've done it in three ways: buying stocks and bonds of construction companies and the hotel sector, lending to them money and buying sovereign bonds of the state of Qatar." In total the Investments in these fields totaled 178,000 million dollars.

Where were the companies that received construction contracts? Qatari law stipulated that Joint ventures, in order to receive a contract from the State, had to have 51% of the capital in Qatari hands, but the rest was for foreign investors. Between the construction companies that received contracts in Qatar there are companies of France (Vinci and Bouygues), Italy (Webuild), Belgium (Besix) and Austria (Porr). In the case of Indian, Chinese and South Korean construction companies, banks Europeans accessed a part of the profits by granting them credits.

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The Spain's Sacyr and OHL were also in Qatar. In the case of OHL, in charge of building the Doha metro, one of its subcontractors was accused by Amnesty International of having its workers in "very inadequate" conditions: no They had been given a residence permit and had difficulty accessing the health. When some of the workers tried to flee the country, the Subcontracted company prevented it. In the case of the hotel sector, also the big beneficiaries are Westerners: Marriott International, Hilton and Radisson (United States), Accor (France) and Intercontinental Hotels Group (United Kingdom). In Qatar there will be 44,000 hotel rooms ready for Receive tourists.

A symbiotic relationship

The crisis of 2008 left touched European economies. Some of them – such as Spain, Greece or France – never have recovered pre-recession GDP. It was on that stage that the Qatari money began to buy parts of the industrial and financial sector of several countries of the continent. In the United Kingdom he injected money into the bank Barclays, which did not want to ask for a bailout it considered humiliating; bought a part of the Harrods luxury store and entered as a shareholder in the company that controls London's Heathrow Airport.

In 2017 the British Telegraph [headlined](#) that the Qataris they had three times as much land in London as the Queen of England. The fund Qatari sovereign and its adjacent ones bought 17% of Volkswagen in Germany, 4% of the French oil company Total, and several pieces in luxury stores (Louis Vuitton), defense companies (Airbus) or Spanish media groups such as HASTE. His most recognized acquisition has been a football team: Paris French Saint Germain, dominator of the French league since the entrance of the Qatari capital. "The former prime minister of Qatar also has shares in Deutsche Bank," says Kodde. The Fair Finance International Report remember that 6% of the bank's shares are held by Qatar: Deutsche Bank has lent nearly \$16 billion between the Qatari government, construction and hotel companies.

"The war in Ukraine has changed the relationship even more in favour of Qatar. Europe perceives itself as highly dependent on Qatar because it has not reduced its use of gas and fossil fuels," he explains. Kodde

Yes Until now this influence had been relatively unknown to the great public, the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine have highlighted it to a level impossible to ignore. Europe needs gas and Qatar has the 12% of the world's reserves of this resource: "The war in Ukraine has changed the relationship even more in Qatar's favor. Europe perceives itself as very dependent on Qatar because it has not reduced its use of gas and

fuels fossils," Kodde explains. The authors of the report include a number of recommendations to European companies that have profited from the World Cup, and hope that the debate on the control of the chains of energy will be reopened in Europe supply. Right now a European directive obliges to identify the risks in production chains, but Kodde regrets that the financial sector does not It is included in the standard. "Many companies in the financial sector don't want to These obligations, although we consider that they may facilitate breaches of the human rights through the companies they finance."

A new lighthouse

The organization of the World Cup Men's football is part of an increasingly Qatari foreign policy Active. In his book "Rivals in the Gulf", David H. Warren dissects the competition between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates when it comes to getting a double Objective: to establish themselves as important centres of Islamic thought and Achieve Western military protection. For Qatar, Muslims have than to look less at what is said from Cairo (Egypt) or the Medina (Arabia) Saudi) and more what is said from Doha, the Qatari capital.

To achieve this, they have financed their own communication giant, Al Jazeera, and have given the speaker to a former Muslim Brotherhood militant Yusuf Al Qaradawi. East Egyptian, installed since the 60s in Qatar, it has become a reference thanks to his sermons, whose peak was the Arab Spring in North Africa. Al Qaradawi was jailed in Egypt for his militancy, and has spread its Islamist creed thanks to resources and support state. Recognized for their role as mediators in various conflicts, the Qataris have supported Islamist groups in Libya after the fall of Gaddafi, welcomed the exiled headquarters of the Afghan [Taliban](#) and supported Morsi in Egypt during the brief period of Brotherhood rule Muslims, until a military coup toppled him. At the same time, Qatar has a base The United States military service, from which it buys most of its weapons, and presents as a key country in [the fight against terrorism and extremist ideologies](#).

The Al Thani and the world they have created around them live in that duality. It is already noticeable in the days before the World Cup: it is his biggest maneuver of presentation to the Westerners, but to the Once it serves to vindicate the norms of a Muslim country that will not bow down. to their demands. [Homophobic comments](#) from someone of the Qatari ambassadors a few days before the start of the competition serve as in the face of this last purpose. It is a risky operation that is splashing FIFA and the emirate, according to Kodde: "Qatar wants to improve its reputation as country, and right now there are many criticisms of the World Cup. The operation may Don't turn out the

way they wanted. FIFA is responsible for this whole disaster: it was they who chose Qatar. FIFA President Gianni Infantino says there were only three deaths among the workers and that they compensated to families. They have lost all their credibility."

The new aristocracy looks the old in the eye, respecting it but asking for its turn in the management of global affairs. For a month, thanks to football, Qatar will finally be the center of the world.

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Source:<https://www.elsaltodiario.com/futbol/bbva-santander-empresas-bancos-europeos-primeros-ganadores-mundial-qatar-fair-finances>

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