

An Overview of Human Rights Violations Against Racial Discrimination: Case Study of Racism Against Vinicius Jr

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ABSTRACT

The author's overarching goal is to analyze the Racial discrimination that remains a significant issue worldwide, leading to severe human rights violations. The problem formulation aims to investigate the prevalence and impact of racial discrimination, using a case study of racism against Vinicius Jr (a professional football player). By examining this specific case, we can gain insight into the broader problem of racial discrimination, explore the challenges individuals face, and assess the efforts made to address this violation of Human Rights. By studying the case of racial discrimination against Vinicius Jr, this research aims to shed light on the broader issue of human rights violations resulting from racial discrimination. The research uses normative legal research, which studies the case approach and collects data from journal articles, books, and websites. The study's outcomes will contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges individuals like Vinicius Jr face and provide insights into effective strategies to combat racial discrimination in football and society. Ultimately, the research aims to promote equal treatment, inclusivity, and respect for human rights, fostering a more just and equitable environment for all.

Keywords: *Discrimination; Football; Human Rights; Racism;*

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INTRODUCTION

Discrimination based on race is a worldwide issue that affects people of all ages and walks of life. Discrimination exists in many forms, including in the sporting arena, despite attempts to eradicate it. The story of Brazilian footballer Vinicius Jr., who has been the target of racist abuse throughout his career, is examined in this article to illustrate the broader issue of human rights abuses against racial discrimination. The United Nations has acknowledged the need to abolish racial discrimination in all its manifestations and to ensure the rights of everyone, regardless of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin (Otieno, 2018). This need will not be met until the United Nations can guarantee these rights. Civil rights laws in the United States protect persons against discrimination based on their race, colour, national origin, disability status, sex,



religion, family status, or loss of other constitutional rights. These laws also protect individuals from the loss of other constitutional rights (Bhat et al., 2022).

Even though significant progress has been made toward equality and social justice, racial discrimination continues to be a pervasive problem in communities all over the globe. The violation of human rights via racism contradicts the ideals of fairness, justice, and equality and maintains a cycle of prejudice, intolerance, and inequality. Racism's violation of human rights serves to perpetuate this cycle. To shed light on the persistent problem of racial discrimination and its consequences for human rights, we investigate the case study of racism against Vinicius Jr., a brilliant Brazilian football player, as part of this complete review. Vinicius Jr. was targeted because of his skin colour (*Vinicius Jr: Rio de Janeiro Government Names Anti-Racism Law after Real Madrid Forward - BBC Sport*, n.d.).

It is essential to investigate the historical background of racism to comprehend the setting in which Vinicius Jr. was subjected to racial prejudice. Over the course of human history, people of a certain race or ethnicity have been subjected to dehumanization, marginalization, and exploitation at the hands of various communities. From the time of transatlantic slavery through colonialism and the campaign for civil rights, racial discrimination has melded the lives of millions of individuals and left significant scars on civilizations all over the globe. Despite advances in social development, racial discrimination continues to exist in various ways (Cornelius, 2020). It often takes the form of structural disparities, biases, stereotypes, and microaggressions. The contemporary period has seen a growth in awareness of racial injustices, led by groups such as Black Lives Matter, and more excellent media coverage of racially motivated instances. Nevertheless, these initiatives have also brought to light the profoundly rooted nature of racism and its effect on a variety of facets of people's lives, such as education, jobs, housing, and the legal system (Wankhede, 2023).

Vinicius Jr. was born on July 12, 2000, in Sao Goncalo, Brazil, and has since established himself as one of the world's most promising young football players. After beginning his professional career in the youth program of Flamengo, one of the most important football teams in Brazil, he rapidly gained recognition for his extraordinary abilities, agility, and flair while playing on the field. Vinicius Jr.'s meteoric climb to fame coincided with his selection to play for the Brazilian national team and, soon after, his high-profile move to Real Madrid, one of the most prominent football teams in the world. Vinicius Jr.'s ascent to recognition coincided with his selection to represent the Brazilian national team (*Vinicius, Valverde, Rodrygo and Camavinga: Real Madrid's Pride on the World Stage | Marca*, n.d.).

Throughout his career, Vinicius Jr. has been subjected to harassment and insults because of his race, even though he is very talented and has achieved a great deal. Derogatory remarks, racist taunts, and abusive gestures have been directed at him both on and off the field by rival players, fans, and even media sources. He has also been the target of hostile gestures. These

acts of racism against Vinicius Jr. shed light on the pervasive existence of discriminatory ideas inside the world of football. They ruined the sport's image as a force that brings people together. Vinicius Jr.'s mental health and overall well-being take a big hit because of the persistent racism that is directed against him (*Vinicius Jr Posts Video of Different Matches He Received Racist Abuse*, n.d.). Being subjected to ongoing acts of racial bigotry and abuse may result in feelings of alienation, self-doubt, and mental anguish. The individual's performance, confidence, and general enjoyment of their vocation might all suffer because of events of this kind. The circumstances surrounding Vinicius Jr.'s case highlight the critical need for comprehensive support networks and steps to address the difficulties in mental health that victims of racial prejudice experience.

In the research, there are issues about the Human Rights violations and racial discrimination in the Vinicius Jr case, is aiming to evaluate the effectiveness of existing measures taken to combat racial discrimination and protect the human rights of individuals like Vinicius Jr and propose recommendations to combat racial discrimination and promote human rights in football and society.

METHOD

This paper's normative legal research design primarily adopts a doctrinal approach. This approach involves analyzing legal principles, doctrines, statutes, and case law to understand and interpret legal norms and their application in addressing violations of international law, particularly in the context of human rights. Normative legal research contributes to the provision of juridical arguments. In addition, normative legal research defends the essential aspects of legal science as a "*sui generis*" normative science. This research is analytical and descriptive and focuses on solving actual problems. When the research was conducted, it did not require any treatment or manipulation of variables regarding violations of international Law in the Racist Discrimination Case against Vinicius Junior because the symptoms and events already existed and only served to describe them. Consequently, the normative legal research approaches used are the statutory, idea, and case approaches.

The primary legal material in this research includes the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. International Human Rights Law (IHRL): Every country is responsible for ensuring that the act of discrimination. The experience of Vinicius Jr is consistent with the human rights commitments it has accepted under the international human rights treaties to which it is a party and with customary international law norms. Secondary legal publications on Law that are not official documents, such as textbooks, legal dictionaries, and law magazines, are published. Legal dictionaries, periodicals, and the Internet serve as tertiary legal sources.

The research used a mixed-methods approach to accomplish the objectives, meaning that both quantitative and qualitative methods were applied. The following activities will be carried out: An exhaustive analysis of the body of previous research on racial discrimination and human rights to understand the theoretical underpinnings and ongoing research in this area. Collecting and analysing quantifiable data on alleged occurrences of racial discrimination against Vinicius Junior, such as media coverage, public declarations, and government reports, was the following activity. The next step was examining the applicable legal frameworks, strategies, and activities to prevent racial discrimination in football and advance human rights in society. To offer a complete picture of the issue and identify significant trends, difficulties, and opportunities, an analysis of the results obtained from examining the relevant literature, the data collection, and the legal analysis was conducted. And then, based on the findings of the study, some solutions to racial discrimination were addressed, considering the programs already in place and the most effective methods.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Federation Internationale de Football Associations (FIFA's) rules on racial discrimination and mistreatment in football are outlined in many papers, such as the FIFA Code of Conduct, the FIFA Disciplinary Guidelines, and the FIFA Standard Code of Conduct. Ratifying UN standards on racial discrimination is a complex process that FIFA may not directly undertake. Member countries of the United Nations often approve of United Nations legislation. FIFA collaborates with member countries and their government entities to uphold and enforce international human rights norms, mainly to prevent racial discrimination in football (Andim, 2023).

If racial discrimination events happen against players like Vinicius Junior, FIFA can follow its internal policies and guidelines to address the issue. This may involve conducting investigations, imposing punishments on the clubs or associations implicated, and launching awareness efforts to deter future instances of discrimination. FIFA can collaborate with UN entities and other human rights organizations to enhance its efforts to combat racial discrimination in football and promote adherence to applicable international norms. While FIFA has not officially approved UN standards, collaboration between FIFA and international organizations can enhance the safeguarding of players from racial discrimination in football.

FIFA regulations have a system for dealing with racism and discrimination. In this case, if a player or team shows racist behaviour, FIFA will ratify the incident by giving sansei or other punishment according to the situation; when Vinicius Junior experiences racism from the crowd, FIFA will take action to ensure it doesn't happen again. This is done to help players and teams clean from discrimination and negative attitudes. FIFA ratifies UN regulations directly or through official processes. In this case, FIFA has its statutes that federation members must fulfill. If there are changes or improvements to UN regulations, FIFA will ratify these regulations. Legal

Protection Against Discrimination in Football Players: FIFA protects football players from discrimination, including cases of racism in matches (Tonly, 2023).

A. Views of International Law on the Phenomenon of Racial Discrimination

At the Mestalla Stadium in Valencia, Spain, on May 21, 2023, during the Spanish League match between Valencia and Real Madrid, Vinicius Jr. was the target of racist insults and abuse from the opposing fans. The racist and sexist effort at a verbal assault was made by some of the home supporters, who used the slur "monkey" (Corrigan, n.d.).

International Law has a vital role in the phenomenon of racial discrimination, which in this discussion is related to discrimination against the professional soccer player Vinicius Jr. Valencia fans shouted at him 'monkey' from the stands during Real Madrid's match against Valencia (*Spanish Soccer's Inaction over Racist Abuse of Vinicius Jr. Could Prove Costly for LaLiga* | CNN, n.d.). Racism, racial discrimination, prejudice, and intolerance still thrive not only in the parts of the world that are stereotypically associated with them, such as the United States. Intolerance is everywhere, in many different guises. Racism can arise in a society that still adheres to superiority and minority, where in the minority community, there are more biological abnormalities than in general. So, from there, an understanding arises that rejects a group of people based on their race. As a result, white supremacy occurs as superior to the detriment of the colored or inferior race (Havelková & Möschel, 2019).

It must be recognized that there have been significant efforts to eliminate discrimination. The government explicitly mentions that it is necessary to strengthen the government's commitment to rejecting various forms of discrimination as stipulated in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which have been ratified and have the mandatory consequence of adjusting various national laws and regulations related to and in line with the international conventions (Hannum et al., 2023).

The history of racism in the US has recorded various problems of racial offenses from the past to the present. Not only cases of racism that occur in society, but the history of racism in the US also records several cases of racial violations committed by police officers. (Williams, 2022) Racism cases have repeatedly occurred so that they have an impact on tiers in the economic, educational, and health sectors in the US, especially discriminatory treatment between blacks and whites (Small & Pager, 2020). The civil rights movement that promotes legal equality for all citizens worldwide, regardless of biological and physical differences, has long been fought for. This movement aims to eliminate discrimination, especially for African Americans and other minorities, to demand before the Law (Saputri, 2020).

Acts of racism not only harm the targeted individuals but also undermine the values of a democratic and peaceful society. The response to cases of racism in Europe is increasing. For

example, Javier Tebas, president of La Liga, Vinicius Jr., has emphasized his commitment to fighting racism in football by implementing special regulations. One of the solutions is to impose immediate defeat penalties for the perpetrators of racism. It is believed that setting severe consequences on offenders would teach them that racism is strictly prohibited and will lead to dire repercussions if continued ("Vinicius Jr Case Opens Wider Racism Debate in Spain," 2023).

In the case of Vinicius Jr., following an investigation into racist chants of "You monkey, Vinicius, you monkey" directed at those Brazilian players before and after the Real Madrid vs. Atletico Madrid match on September 18, the local prosecutor in Madrid said that they did not pursue the case because the chants were among other chants that were "offensive and disrespectful" in a "football match full of intense competition." Apart from the Madrid Public Prosecutor's decision not to convict because the incident "only lasted a few seconds," other reasons given by the Public Prosecutor for not trying the case included that "the perpetrator could not be identified," that "the incident did not fall within the scope of the Penal Code" and that "the limit of the Penal Code offense was not crossed" (*Embattled LaLiga President Repeats Racist Slur in Press Conference When Discussing Racist Abuse of Real Madrid Star Vinicius Jr.* | CNN, n.d.).

As experience has shown, if human rights still exist only as moral rights, their realization is highly dependent on the consciousness of the "authorities" to regulate them. For example, it follows that violations of held human rights norms cannot be dealt with in criminal sanctions. In this position, the status of concepts regarding human rights norms is placed in the context of soft Law. For this reason, it becomes essential to elevate these moral rights to legal rights, which will be guaranteed through favorable Laws enforced by legal authorities (judicial power). In practice, the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination has become a complex Law that binds all state authorities to comply with the principles and norms contained in the convention. However, the fact that the norms in the convention still need to be implemented means that legislation is still required to explain them more operationally (Sari & Alaslan, 2023).

However, the effectiveness of these solutions remains to be observed. Racism is a complex issue and is rooted in certain mindsets and cultures. Sensitizing society and achieving actual change in this regard requires a long-term effort that involves education, dialogue, and the elimination of prejudices associated with race. In addition to regulatory and legal measures, it is also essential to strengthen awareness of the importance of respecting diversity and fostering an attitude of tolerance.

Continuing the fight against racism in Europe requires cooperation between governments, sports institutions, civil society organizations, and individuals. Education is critical in the fight against racism (Kamang, 2021). Educational programs that promote understanding, tolerance, and respect for diversity should be introduced early on in schools and other educational

institutions. In addition, it is essential to raise awareness through public campaigns highlighting the dangers of racism and its negative impacts. Mass media, digital platforms, and celebrities can play a role in amplifying anti-racism messages and promoting inclusive values. The role of sports institutions is also vital in combating racism. Organizations such as UEFA and FIFA must tighten regulations and impose strict sanctions on clubs or individuals involved in acts of racism (Lenskyj, 2022).

The problem of racism in Europe cannot be solved quickly or instantly (Foster & Baker, 2021). It requires collective awareness, strong commitment, and concrete action from all parties involved. In the face of this challenge, building momentum and striving for sustainable change is essential. Only by forging strong partnerships and applying the whole of society will a more inclusive society be achieved, and racism will be reduced in Europe. In addition to the measures, monitoring and reporting racism is also crucial. People must feel safe and be encouraged to report incidents of racism that they experienced or witnessed (Weerakoon et al., 2023).

The sanctions imposed on perpetrators of racism should also align to educate and bring about behavioral change. In addition to direct punishment, other options, such as cultural sensitivity training, participation in rehabilitation programs, or involvement in social activities that promote inclusion, can be part of the punishment. A rehabilitative approach can help offenders realize the negative impact of their actions and encourage them to change (Sladek et al., 2020).

B. Combat Racial Discrimination and Promote Human Rights in Football and Society.

FIFA's rules on racial discrimination and mistreatment of individuals in football are outlined in many publications, such as the FIFA Code of Conduct, the FIFA Disciplinary Guidelines, and the FIFA Standard Code of Conduct. FIFA may wait to implement UN legislation on racial discrimination because it is complicated. Member countries of the United Nations often ratify UN legislation. FIFA collaborates with member countries and their government entities to uphold international human rights norms, particularly in preventing racial discrimination in sports. FIFA can take specific actions per its internal rules and standards when racial discrimination happens against players like Vinicius Junior.

Involve conducting investigations, imposing punishments on the clubs or associations implicated, and implementing awareness efforts to prevent future discrimination (Anung Riyanti, 2022). FIFA should collaborate with UN entities and human rights organizations to enhance its efforts to combat racial discrimination in football and promote adherence to international norms by member countries. While FIFA has not officially endorsed UN standards, collaboration between FIFA and international organizations can enhance the safeguarding of players from racial discrimination in football (*Racist Abuse of Vinicius Junior Highlights Entrenched Problem in Soccer | AP News*, n.d.).

The situation involving Vinicius Jr. sheds light on the critical necessity to fight racial prejudice and promote human rights in the field of sports as well as in society in general. Discrimination based on race is still a widespread problem that runs counter to the ideals of equality, fairness, and justice. We may shed light on the issues experienced by people exposed to racism by reviewing the experiences of Vinicius Jr. and exploring the required steps to encourage tolerance, diversity, and respect in football and beyond. Football's status as a worldwide sport gives it the potential to bring people of different cultures and nationalities together. Nonetheless, it is not immune to the systemic problem of racial prejudice, which has deep roots. The sport has been tainted by racist insults, slurs, and discriminatory behaviors, which have tarnished its image and contributed to the continuation of injustice (Jacob et al., 2023). The experiences of Vinicius Jr. serve as a jarring reminder of the enduring bigotry that continues to plague football and impede progress toward making the sport more welcoming to people of all backgrounds and perspectives.

A concentrated effort is necessary from various football stakeholders, including the sport's governing bodies, clubs, players, fans, and media outlets, to fight against racial prejudice in football. The adoption of more stringent laws, such as more severe punishments for racist conduct and proactive monitoring systems, has the potential to serve as deterrents and to make the environment a safe and welcoming place for all participants. Education and awareness programs are also critical in the fight against stereotypical thinking, promoting empathy, and facilitating cultural understanding within the football community (Bennett & King, 2021). By removing racism and fostering diversity and inclusion in football, one may fight against it. Promoting diversity and inclusion in football is not only about providing equal opportunity for people of different backgrounds to join and advance in the sport but also about eliminating racism. A scarcity of providers for minority groups in football, both on the field and in leadership roles, and specific initiatives, such as restricting diversity, inclusive recruiting methods, and regulating anti-discrimination, may be able to help solve this issue (Lawrence & Davis, 2019). Soccer can utilize its capacity to inspire, educate, and identify individuals across racial, ethnic, and cultural lines because of the skill of its players and coaches. It is also vital to engage with human rights groups to counteract racism. Associations and football clubs must actively collaborate with human rights organizations to guarantee that human rights values are followed within the realm of sport (McGillivray et al., 2022). Partnerships may make it easier to establish and put into action an all-encompassing anti-racism plan, which may include educational programs, sensitivity training, and support networks for those struggling with racist attitudes and behaviors (Kassimeris et al., 2022).

Football can increase its commitment to eliminating racism and supporting human rights by aligning itself with recognized human rights frameworks and communicating with civil society. Promoting human rights and eliminating racial discrimination in football should not be confined to sport. Football can have a significant impact on society as a whole and has the potential to act as a driver of constructive social change (Penfold & Cleland, 2022). Soccer players like Vinicius Jr.,

who can capitalize on their platform, could campaign for justice, challenge discriminatory views, and encourage others to resist prejudice in all aspects of their lives. It is essential to determine the connection between football and society and strive toward creating a more welcoming and equitable world.

The sport of football has the potential to make tremendous strides in eliminating racial bias (Gordon, 2020). It is of the utmost importance to cultivate a culture of inclusion, one in which all people are free to take part in and take pleasure in the activity without the threat of being discriminated against and in which variety is acknowledged and praised as a source of power. The objective is to establish a culture in football that upholds the principles of equality, respect, and the protection of human rights (Tarnanidis et al., 2022).

CONCLUSION

General laws have a crucial role in addressing racial discrimination in football. Anti-discrimination legislation and human rights laws offer a robust legal structure to address instances of discrimination. This law clarifies the forbidden behaviors and the corresponding consequences for violators. The government can exert pressure and provide oversight to football federations to guarantee the consistency and efficacy of their efforts in addressing incidences of prejudice. Courts of law can effectively resolve complaints connected to racial discrimination in football. Victims of prejudice can seek justice and compensation through the legal process for the unfair treatment they experience. Furthermore, enforcing universal rules can motivate football federations to enhance collaboration with anti-discrimination organizations and boost education and awareness regarding this matter among participants, supporters, and the broader society. Including universal legislation is crucial for combating racial discrimination in football and creating a fair and inclusive environment for all individuals.

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