

GERMAN SOCCER PROTEST

Nov 28th, 2022

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. What was the last sport you watched? Who was playing? What happened?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it is about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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|------------------|---|
| 1. Protest | a) celebrating people's differences |
| 2. Silence | b) to prevent something from being expressed |
| 3. Diversity | c) a person that has moved from one place to another |
| 4. LGBTQ | d) a subject, opinion, or decision that people disagree about |
| 5. Controversial | e) to obey a rule or order |
| 6. Simmer | f) to make somebody stop speaking or making noise |
| 7. Migrant | g) showing you disagree with something |
| 8. Homosexuality | h) romantic attraction to others of the same sex |
| 9. Suppress | i) almost boiling, an issue that is gathering intensity |
| 10. Comply | j) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text (below).*

Before their first game at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, the German team protested _____ a photography session. The players held hands to their mouths to represent being silenced. They were protesting a decision by FIFA that teams cannot wear 'One Love' armbands in support of diversity and mutual _____.

Qatar, an Islamic country in the Persian Gulf, is a controversial host in some parts of the world. Just before the event started, Qatar announced that _____ would not be served at games. Other issues have been simmering for longer. Qatar has been criticized for the large numbers of migrant

workers that died during the _____ of World Cup facilities. Also, while many in the West now accept homosexuality, it remains illegal in Qatar and other countries.

Qatar and FIFA appear determined to suppress particular expressions and _____. For example, before entering the stadium, security officials told fans to remove rainbow-colored clothing because _____ are associated with the LGBTQ rights movement. Also, FIFA told the German team and other teams that they would receive a yellow card if they wore the colorful 'One Love' armbands.

Teams were unhappy about FIFA's threat but felt they had to comply. For the German team, covering their _____ was an appropriate way to display their unhappiness.

WORD FORMS: Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an *x*, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or does not exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
silence			
			diversity
simmer		x	
x			homosexuality

FULL STORY:

Before their first game at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, the German team protested during a photography session. The players held hands to their mouths to represent being silenced. They were protesting a decision by FIFA that teams cannot wear 'One Love' armbands in support of diversity and mutual respect.

Qatar, an Islamic country in the Persian Gulf, is a controversial host in some parts of the world. Just before the event started, Qatar announced that alcohol would not be served at games. Other issues have been simmering for longer. Qatar has been criticized for the large numbers of migrant workers that died during the construction of World Cup facilities. Also, while many in the West now accept homosexuality, it remains illegal in Qatar and other countries.

Qatar and FIFA appear determined to suppress particular expressions and protests. For example, before entering the stadium, security officials told fans to remove rainbow-colored clothing because rainbows are associated with the LGBTQ rights movement. Also, FIFA told the German

team and other teams that they would receive a yellow card if they wore the colorful 'One Love' armbands.

Teams were unhappy about FIFA's threat but felt they had to comply. For the German team, covering their mouths was an appropriate way to display their unhappiness.

Sources: apnews.com, theguardian.com, nytimes.com
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. The FIFA World Cup is in Qatar. (T / F)
2. The German team protested about photography. (T / F)
3. Many migrant workers died. (T / F)
4. There are no rainbows in Qatar. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. islamic / qatar / is / country / an
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2. stadium / you / beer / cannot / drink / the / at
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DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. Are you a soccer fan? If so, which teams do you support? If not, why not?
2. Do you think Qatar was a good choice to host the World Cup?
3. What rights should humans have in your opinion?
4. Is it a human right to love whomever you want to love?
5. Is drinking alcohol common in your community? How do you feel about alcohol?
6. What are the positive and negative effects of drinking alcohol?
7. Do you agree that the German team was 'silenced'?
8. Is Qatar responsible for the deaths of migrant workers? Why?
9. What is tolerance? Are you a tolerant person?
10. Is an international sporting event a good time to protest? Why or why not?

