

Mr. Nelson Mandela  
Nelson Mandela Foundation  
107 Central Street  
Houghton  
2198, Johannesburg

By mail to: zeldalag@nelsonmandela.org

Johannesburg, 11 June 2010

*Dear Nelson Mandela, friend Madiba,*

I woke this morning to hear the unspeakably tragic news that your great-granddaughter had lost her life in a car accident. I am stunned as I sit here, I cannot understand it and I simply cannot find the words to express my sadness. In situations such as these, it is impossible to find the right words – to which there are no answers – will always remain. Why did this happen?

I know that words are of little comfort at this time, my dear and most precious friend, but please know that my most sincere thoughts are with you, your family and all of those close to you.

The entire football family mourns with you and your family, and today we stand by your side.

It goes without saying that we fully understand that you cannot be with us at the opening ceremony and match later today. You will, however, be with us in spirit, for which we are incredibly grateful.

Yours sincerely, *in respect*

  
Joseph S. Blatter