



Senator Dave Sharma
Senator for New South Wales

Mr Mike Baird AO
Chair, Cricket Australia
60 Jolimont Street
Jolimont VIC 3002
Via email

16 January 2024

Dear Mr ~~Baird~~, *Mike*,

I have been made aware of the decision by Cricket South Africa to relieve David Teeger of his captaincy in advance of the upcoming ICC men's Under-19 world cup being held in South Africa from 19 January.

Cricket South Africa's media release, dated 12 January, cites the risk of "conflict or even violence", referencing security updates, had Teeger remained in his role. This decision seems to have been taken solely because Teeger, who is a South African citizen, is also Jewish.

The decision to relieve Teeger of his captaincy comes shortly after a group known as the Palestinian Solidarity Alliance lodged an official complaint with the South African Sports Confederation, and shortly after South Africa commenced legal proceedings against Israel in the International Court of Justice under the 1948 Genocide Convention. It also follows media reports of a meeting held between the South African Sports Minister and South African cricket officials earlier in the week.

Given South Africa has expressed public concern about its ability to protect the safety of players and teams at the tournament, have these security concerns been conveyed to Cricket Australia, and do they have implications for the participation of our team? Are all Australian players at risk from the risk of "conflict or even violence", or only Jewish cricket players? Have steps been taken to assess and mitigate such risks?

If South Africa has not provided such information to Cricket Australia, and has not alerted us to security concerns, then it would appear that Cricket South Africa's decision to relieve Teeger of his captaincy was the result of political pressure and interference, and solely because of the fact that he is Jewish and has expressed public support for Israel's right to defend itself.

I would expect such political interference in the administration of the game, and on racial and religious grounds, would rightly attract criticism from cricketing authorities, including Cricket Australia.

I would appreciate advice on Cricket Australia's proposed approach to this issue and reassurance that all members of the Australian squad, regardless of religion, will be safe in South Africa.

Yours truly,

Dave Sharma