

Spanish La Liga

# Vinicius plays on through a grisly gauntlet of racism

## Jonathan Liew

While the individual incidents continue to gain coverage in the Spanish media, there seems to be precious little urgency and introspection that could drive change

In 1997, Roberto Carlos was racially abused while playing his first clásico for Real Madrid. Barcelona fans made monkey chants every time he touched the ball, held up racist banners and even scratched the word "monkey" on his car as a special treat for him to find later. No charges or punishments were issued and if, after complaining publicly, Carlos was hoping for a little professional solidarity at this most harrowing of moments, he was out of luck. "This man talks a lot, he talks too much, he doesn't know our fans and he hasn't been here for long enough to justify these things," Barcelona's central midfielder retorted that day, a Spain international by the name of Pep Guardiola.

**Monkey chants**  
It would be nice to imagine we have made some progress in the intervening quarter-century: that black footballers would be able to go about their business in one of the world's biggest leagues without having to negotiate the horrific obstacle course of racism, that the game itself would not be quite so eager to play it down. And yet there are times, when watching the case of Vinicius Junior, when you begin to wonder.

It's hard to pinpoint when Vinicius started being targeted by opposition fans for abuse. There were some monkey chants at Mallorca's Son Moix stadium this month, a few shouts from the Osasuna end during the minute's silence for the Turkey and Syria earthquake, the effigy hung from a motorway bridge near Real's training ground last month, bedecked in the red and white of Atlético Madrid.



But this has been going on for more than a year, a grisly gauntlet of othering and dehumanisation that seems to have taken on a horrific performative quality. Somehow, the longer it continues, the more routine it becomes, the more and less shocking it becomes. You sense Carlo Ancelotti's heart breaking a little more every time he has to talk about it. And so most weekends Vinicius simply sighs, laces up his boots and braces himself for what comes next. While the individual incidents continue to gain coverage in the Spanish media, there seems to be precious little sense of the broader picture, precious little of the anger and urgency and introspection that could drive change. One of the world's

greatest footballers is essentially being sacrificed on a weekly basis, hunted and hounded for sport.

**The usual beige statements**  
Who, exactly, do we see about this? Where are the points deductions, the stadium bans, the bone-shattering fines? Where are Uefa and Fifa, who are quite happy to mine Vinicius's talent to promote their own competitions but have had nothing to say about this? There have been the usual beige statements, the usual buck-passing, the usual equivocation. La Liga argues it is powerless to enforce sporting sanctions and instead refers all cases to the justice system, which has proven itself a wholly

**66**  
**On television and radio shows, coverage of Vinicius's behaviour is often given as much attention as the abuse he receives, as if these were two equal sides of an argument**

inadequate arbiter. After Atlético fans were filmed chanting "Vinicius, you are a monkey" at a fixture against Real in September, the Madrid prosecutor's office declined to bring any charges, arguing the chanting had been "disrespectful" but lasted only a few seconds and needed to be seen in the context of the "fierce rivalry" between the clubs. For large parts of Spanish society, this remains a curiously prevalent mindset: that racist abuse is somehow mitigated by its sporting context or is just a particularly impolite form of booing. You will still see the view expressed that opposition fans are simply trying to gain a competitive edge by trying to rile Vinicius into a

Vinicius Junior: One of the world's greatest footballers is essentially being sacrificed on a weekly basis, hunted and hounded for sport. PHOTOGRAPH: PIERRE-PHILIPPE MARCOU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

reaction, which they occasionally get. (Racism: the original marginal gain.) Adjacent to this is the idea that Vinicius provokes these strong feelings through his showboating, his behaviour on the pitch, his dancing celebrations. In September a guest on the popular television show El Chiringuito de Jugones said, with either maximum irony or none at all, that Vinicius should "stop playing the monkey". Atlético's condemnation of their own fans came with a caveat that it was "the responsibility of everyone" to ensure harmonious relations between the two clubs. On television and radio shows, coverage of Vinicius's behaviour is often given as much attention than the abuse he receives, as if these were two equal sides of an argument, as if the basic humanity of Vinicius were no more than a phone-in debate.

**Made to accept complicity**  
This is, in many ways, a textbook example of how the victims of racism are often gaslit: abused and then made to accept complicity in their own abuse. There has been some idle speculation – because no football story really exists unless it has a transfer angle – that Vinicius may tire of his treatment and leave La Liga. But to isolate this as a purely Spanish disease is to misunderstand the nature of the problem. Besides, given the frequent online abuse of prominent black Premier League players, there seems little point in holding England as any kind of a gold standard.

And so every week the stakeholders wring their hands and insist something must be done. And every week Vinicius plays on, to a chorus of boos and whistles and usually something far more sinister. Racism has always chosen its targets unequally and on some level we should expect his talent and fame and wealth to offer him a certain protection. His treatment instead poses a burning question: if football can't protect Vinicius, what chance does it have with anyone else? – Guardian

News

## City have little room for error in title race, says Guardiola

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola feels his side have little room for error in the Premier League title race. The champions could find themselves five points behind leaders Arsenal come their next league game against Newcastle on Saturday if the Gunners beat Everton in midweek.

we are playing is good. The results could be better – in terms of winning at Spurs or Nottingham – but sometimes that happens.



**66**  
**Everyone is going to drop points but we cannot drop any if we are going to fight until the end**

Guardiola said yesterday: "I have the feeling in the Premier League many things are going to happen. Everyone is going to drop points but we cannot drop any if we are going to fight until the end." Despite claiming a crucial victory over their chief title rivals at the Emirates Stadium earlier this month, City have been inconsistent since the World Cup. They restored some confidence after frustrating draws against Nottingham Forest and RB Leipzig in the last week, however, with a convincing 4-1 win at Bournemouth on Saturday. Guardiola said: "The game

"Of course it's not exceptional – it's OK, it's good – but I don't have complaints with the way we are playing and fighting."

City are back in action tonight as they travel to Championship side Bristol

City in the fifth round of the EA Cup.

Guardiola expects a reasonable test against Nigel Pearson's side, who have not lost since St Stephen's Day.

The City boss said: "Last 12 games no defeat – that gives me a lot of info. It means they are there. My scouts say they are good team, the manager has a lot of experience."

The game could provide an opportunity for summer signing Kalvin Phillips to make a rare start.

The England international has started just one game for City in a curious campaign.

As well as injury problems, the 27-year-old was criticised by Guardiola for being overweight and he has struggled to get meaningful game time off the bench. Yet he was given 35 minutes at the Vitality Stadium at the weekend and could see more action in the season's decisive weeks. Guardiola said: "Kalvin is adapting and adjusting a little bit. Some players need a bit more time."

## Fulham boosted by Mitrovic return

Fulham manager Marco Silva will have Aleksandar Mitrovic fit and available for what he expects to be a "proper cup tie" against Leeds in the FA Cup tonight.

"As you know, and the results are showing, we are more than just one player and I think winning games and taking important points for us even without our best goal-scorer – and that is Mitro

Fulham have exceeded all expectations this season and lie sixth in the Premier League table, in stark contrast to their opponents tonight, who are one point above the relegation zone.

**11**  
**The number of goals Aleksandar Mitrovic has scored for Fulham this term**

However, Javi Gracia marked his first game in charge of Leeds with victory over Southampton on Saturday and is no stranger to the FA Cup, having led Watford to the final in 2019.

– speaks about ourselves and not just one or two players.

Silva, though, insists his side will have their full attention on tonight's tie, despite being in European contention in the league.

"But of course if you have all of them you are stronger and playing with our best goal-scorer right now we can be stronger."

"It's our goal and our aim. Right now nothing will disturb our focus on the FA Cup match," the Fulham boss said.

## Round-up

**Last night's results**  
ENGLISH LEAGUE - Championship: Swansea City 1, Rotherham United 1.  
SPANISH LA LIGA: Villarreal 2, Getafe 1.  
ITALIAN SERIE A: Hellas Verona 0, Fiorentina 3; Lazio 1, Sampdoria 0.  
**Tonight's fixtures**  
(7.45pm unless stated)  
ENGLISH FA CUP - Fifth Round: Stoke City v Brighton & Hove Albion (7.15); Leicester City v

Blackburn Rovers (7.30); Fulham v Leeds United; Bristol City v Manchester City (8.0).  
ENGLISH LEAGUE - Championship: Preston North End v Coventry City; Luton Town v Millwall (8.0).  
League One: Derby County v Cheltenham Town; Lincoln City v Milton Keynes Dons; Peterborough United v Charlton Athletic; Portsmouth v Bolton Wanderers.  
League Two: AFC Wimbledon v Stevenage; Barrow v Salford City; Gillingham v Bradford City.

Harrogate Town v Northampton Town; Tranmere Rovers v Crawley Town.  
SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Dundee v Partick Thistle.  
SCOTTISH LEAGUE TWO: Bonnyrigg Rose v Forfar Athletic; Dumbarton v Stenhousemuir.  
IRISH PREMIERSHIP: Glentoran v Glenties.  
ITALIAN SERIE A: Cremonese v Roma (5.30); Juventus v Torino.  
FRENCH COUPE DE FRANCE: Lyon v Grenoble (8.10).

## CLASSIFIED EXTRA

### COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2022 NOTICE OF DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, COUNTY MAYO

In accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Sheskin South Renewables Power DAC, gives notice of its intention to make an application to An Bord Pleanála for a ten-year planning permission for the following proposed development in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo.

The proposed development will constitute of the following:

- I. Construction of 21 no. wind turbines and associated hardstand areas with the following parameters:
  - a. A total tip height of 200 metres,
  - b. Hub height of 115 metres, and
  - c. Rotor diameter of 170 metres
- II. All associated underground electrical and communications cabling;
- III. 1 no. Meteorological Mast of 115 metres in height, and associated hardstanding area;
- IV. Upgrade of existing tracks and roads, provision of new permanent site access roads, upgrade of 2 no. existing site entrances, construction of 1 no. new site entrance;
- V. 2 no. borrow pits;
- VI. 12 no. permanent peat placement areas;
- VII. 4 no. temporary construction compounds with temporary site offices and staff facilities;
- VIII. Permanent recreation and amenity works, including marked trails, seating areas, viewing point, amenity car park, and associated amenity signage;
- IX. Site Drainage;
- X. Site Signage;
- XI. Ancillary Forestry Felling to facilitate construction and operation of the proposed development;
- XII. All works associated with the habitat enhancement and biodiversity management within the wind farm site; and
- XIII. All associated site development works and ancillary infrastructure.

This application is seeking a ten-year permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the renewable energy development.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany the planning application. The planning application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on the 8th March 2023 at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 (9:15am – 5:30pm, Monday – Friday)
- The Offices of Mayo County Council, Áras an Chontae, The Mall, Castlebar, County Mayo, F23 WF90 (9:30am-1:00pm; 2:00pm-4:30pm, Monday – Friday)

The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: [www.sheskinsouthwplanning.com](http://www.sheskinsouthwplanning.com). Submissions or Observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála ("the Board") 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 or via the Board's website <https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/observations> during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to:

- I. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
- II. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- III. The likely effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board not later than 5.30pm on the 25th April 2023. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:

- The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating the application should be sent,
- The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- The reasons, consideration and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers)

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board. The Board may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application (refer to 'A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' at [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie))

The Board may in respect of an application for permission decide to:

- a) (i) grant the permission, or
- (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
- (iii) grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or
- b) Refuse permission to grant the permission

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100).

A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical Information on the review mechanism can be accessed on the Boards website ([www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)) under the following heading: Legal Notices – Judicial Review Notice. This information is also available on the Citizens Information Service website [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

### HOUSES AND LANDS FOR SALE

Lisney Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Local experts worldwide reach.

#### LICENSED PREMISES

SELLING OR BUYING a 7 Day Liquor Licence. Contact 01-209 1935.

#### RESTAURANTS

Restaurant / Retail Opportunity – To Let. 1,970 sq. ft. on George's Street Upper, Dun Laoghaire. Suitable for a number of uses. Please send enquiries to [emma@frisby.ie](mailto:emma@frisby.ie) 01-2933800. F.J. Frisby & Associates PSRA 002980.

#### TRAVEL & TOURISM

#### HOLIDAYS ABROAD

#### PORTUGAL

PORTUGAL - Four Seasons Fairways 8 July 3 weeks 3-bed villa, to rent, sleeps up to 8. Call 0833976946

#### COURSES

#### LANGUAGE COURSES

Do you want to travel and teach English? The Trinity Cert TESOL is accepted as an English Teaching qualification across the globe and in Ireland. The Linguaviva Centre has courses starting on March 20th, April 24th, May 29th, 2023. contact [info@linguaviva.com](mailto:info@linguaviva.com)

#### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A RENEWAL OF A PERMIT

Circle K Ireland Energy Ltd., Circle K House, Beech Hill, Clonskeagh, Dublin 4 have applied for a renewal of a permit for:  
The satisfactory design, operation and maintenance of storage installations and/or loading and unloading equipment at a terminal in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 (Control of volatile organic compound emissions resulting from the storage of petrol and distribution) Regulations, 1997.  
Located at:  
Circle K Ireland Energy Ltd (Fareplay Energy Ltd) Dublin Terminal, Promenade Road, Dublin 3  
And  
Circle K Ireland Energy Limited, Galway Harbour Enterprise Park, Galway  
A copy of this application may be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford Y35 W821

#### OFFICES TO LET

Sandyford, Dublin 18 - Sandyford Park 5,720sq.ft. 10 Car Spaces. Beacon South Quarter 2,000sq.ft. 3 Car Spaces. Beacon Court 3,400sq.ft. & 1,000sq.ft. All Enquiries: 2933800, [louise@frisby.ie](mailto:louise@frisby.ie) PSRA 002980

#### APPOINTMENTS

#### SITUATIONS VACANT

Acacia Facilities Management are hiring for a Facilities Coordinator based in Dublin City Centre. Working 39 hrs p/w. Skills: Min 3 years in an Admin role. Salary is based on experience – circa €30k p/a. Email your CV quoting Ref: FC002 to [recruit@acacia.ie](mailto:recruit@acacia.ie)

CHEF DE PARTIE/Pastry Chef required by Dinkin's Bakery, Co. Monaghan. Duties include: team supervision, budgeting, health and safety. €30,000 p/a, 39 hrs p/w. Send CV: [info@dinkinsbakery.com](mailto:info@dinkinsbakery.com)

Chef de Partie required for busy kitchen of popular GreatWall & Apache Pizza. Must have at least 2 years' experience in similar role would be an advantage. Must be hard working, a team player and capable of producing high quality food to both Departmental and internal standards. Location: Main Street, Clogherhead, Co. Louth. Salary: €30,000 per annum. Hours: 39 per week. Employer: Qin Yu Kee Limited T/A GreatWall & Apache Pizza Apply by phone 0419889010, or email CVs to: [clogherhead@apache.ie](mailto:clogherhead@apache.ie)

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL - We, Chenzhe Zhang and Yuwen Yun, intend to apply for retention planning permission for Sunroom extension to existing Lounge to side to replace demolished conservatory and widening of vehicular access to front boundary at Hillside, 1 Fairyhill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority, County Hall, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation may be made to the Planning Authority in writing on payment of €20 within the period of five weeks from the date the application is received by the Planning Authority.

Health+ Family

EVERY TUESDAY IN THE IRISH TIMES