



### [Morocco Makes a Historic Run to the 2022 FIFA World Cup Semi-Finals](#)

Morocco's magical and inspirational run at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar was ended by reigning champions France yesterday, but not before the team made history by becoming both the first African and first Arab nation to reach the semi-finals of the prestigious tournament. Morocco will now face Croatia in Saturday's third place match, while France will seek to retain their title against Argentina in the World Cup final on Sunday. The historic Moroccan achievement comes at a time when the FIFA World Cup is being held in the Arab world for the first time ever, and the Atlas Lions not only "carried the flag" and drew unified support from the Middle East and Africa, but they also garnered the deep respect and admiration of much of the global soccer world at-large. Along the way during their incredible run, Morocco defeated several powerhouses of the sport: Belgium in the group stage, Spain in the Round of 16, and Portugal in the quarter-finals.

Morocco made history at the 2022 FIFA World Cup on multiple different fronts. Prior to this year's FIFA World Cup, no African national team had ever advanced past the quarter-final stage of the tournament. On three separate previous occasions, teams from the continent were eliminated in this round of the competition. The first took place in 1990, when Cameroon made it to the quarter-finals but then lost to England. The same fate befell Senegal in 2002 and Ghana in 2010, when they were ultimately eliminated by Turkey and Uruguay, respectively. In addition to becoming the first African team to reach the semi-finals of the World Cup, the 2022 Moroccan team also made history as the first Arab nation to do so as well. Before this year's tournament, no Arab nation had ever even advanced to the quarter-final stage, let alone the semi-final one. While host country Qatar had a poor showing, losing all three of their group stage games and thus failing to advance to the knockout rounds, other Arab national teams certainly made up for this and ensured a memorable and historic tournament for the region's participants. On top of Morocco's magical run to the semi-finals, Saudi Arabia defeated Argentina in their first group game, and Tunisia defeated France in their last group game. Ironically enough, it is these two national teams that suffered losses to Arab nations that will face off on Sunday in the 2022 FIFA World Cup final.

The Moroccan team at this 2022 FIFA World Cup not only instilled pride and earned a great deal of respect among their fans and lovers of the sport in general, but they also proved that nations from outside of the traditional soccer powerhouses can succeed on the highest level. A collective of selfless players who embodied true team spirit and public displays of solidarity with the Palestinian cause helped contribute to the wide array of support and admiration that they earned during the course of the tournament. Morocco was undoubtedly the feel-good fairy tale story of this year's World Cup, and their historic run will certainly inspire others like them to dream of future prospects for success at the world's biggest sports competition.