



INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE JUDO
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE JUDO

ASSOCIATION UNDER SWISS LAW - ASSOCIATION DE DROIT SUISSE - ASOCIACION SUIZA

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Mr. Masoud Soltanifar
Minister of Sport and Youth Iran

Mr. Syed Reza Salehi Amiri
President Iran Olympic Committee

Mr. Mohamed Reza Emadi
Acting President Iran Judo Federation

March 1, 2019
Budapest

Dear Sirs,
Dear Colleagues in Sport,

In recent history, the international judo community witnessed several times a disturbing phenomenon, which involves the sudden “injury” or failure of weigh-in of Iranian athletes, phenomenon which is linked by many observers to the possible obligation of the given athletes to compete against certain countries.

Such is the example of Arash Miresmaeili, 66 kg, double World Champion 2001 and 2003, triple Asian Champion and top favorite for the 2004 Olympics, who was also flag bearer for Iran. The athlete shockingly failed the weigh-in and in his first contest he would have had to fight against Ehud Vaks (ISR). It is said he was awarded money by the IRI Government, the same amount given to Olympic gold medalists and on his return to the country, he was treated like a hero. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arash_Miresmaeili

The most recent case is that of Saeid Mollaei, 81 kg, current World Champion who in the Paris Grand Slam 2019, in the quarter final of pool A lost to a KAZ athlete. The athlete from ISR was in pool B quarter final which he also won. Saeid Mollaei won bronze in the repechage but then claimed an injury and did not attend the medal ceremony.

All these cases receive a lot of negative comments and attention from international media and public as well, which casts a shadow not only on Iran as a country, but also on Iranian sports and consequently the sport of judo.

Through this letter, I would like to ask you to present to the International Judo Federation, until March 15, 2019 a governmental letter which guarantees that all athletes from Iran will compete in IJF competitions, regardless of the nationality of the athletes they oppose and that

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they will participate in the medal ceremonies, regardless of the nationality of those who share the podium with them.

Iranian Judo is on a continuous development path with very good results and I believe that with the current international political climate and the sanctions imposed on Iran, sport remains one of the most important values for the image of your country in the world.

Should you be unable to fulfill the above request, unfortunately the International Judo Federation will have to suspend the Iran Judo Federation for an unlimited period, and we believe that the international sports community will follow this example. In order to protect the athletes, they will be allowed to participate in IJF competitions, but only under IJF flag and only if they agree to compete against all nationalities and to share the podium with all nationalities, without discrimination.

I look forward to receiving your answer and I count on your cooperation, hoping that this situation will be solved at the earliest.

Thank you for your cooperation.

With best regards,


Marius L. Vizer
President
International Judo Federation

Cc: Mr. Thomas Bach – IOC President

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