

April 8, 2011

Mr. Jacques Rogge
President
International Olympic Committee
Chateau de Vidy
Case Postale 356
1001 Lausanne
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Rogge:

We write to you with great sadness in our hearts and a strong desire for the International Olympic Committee to address an issue that is nearly 39 years old.

The 11 athletes, coaches and referees who were murdered by terrorists in 1972 at the Olympic Games in Munich deserve to be remembered at the Olympic opening ceremonies in front of the eyes of the world. We know that this is echoed by the families of The Munich 11 at every Olympics since this incident occurred.

The London Olympic Games in 2012, will mark four decades since this act of terror took place and we ask that the IOC, stop for one minute of silence to honor these men at this opening ceremony and at every opening ceremony of the Olympic Games thereafter. This is our request and we implore the IOC to step forward and do what is just and in doing so, heal many lives, not just Jewish lives, Israeli lives - but for all humanity.

We refer you to the Olympic Charter (as in force from 2.11.10), Page 11, #2 under Fundamental Principles of Olympism which states:

"The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."

As you rightfully stood to honor Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili, after his tragic accident, with a minute of silence near the end of the Opening Ceremony of the 21st Winter Olympic Games, you stated with emotion at a news conference "This is a very sad day." You took your glasses off, wiped your eyes and ended with "I have no words to say what we feel."

We believe that you, as the IOC President and as a former Olympic Athlete in 1972, were honestly, authentically touched by this terrible tragedy.

The tragedy beyond the Munich massacre itself, and witnessed by millions throughout the world, has become the antitheses of what the Olympics spirit is all about. As you know, history has a way of repeating itself and without a minute of silence, the IOC by omission; leaves open a door that needs to be sealed.

Is there room in this world to admit a mistake? The unprecedented act of correcting the IOC's position would be the most courageous and life-affirming gesture to the world that each and every life matters. No life should be marginalized. The Olympic spirit brings the world together on one stage. It proves to us all that nations and people can set aside differences and come together without divisiveness; simply to experience, enjoy and educate one another culturally, while competing and developing relationships that go beyond the borders of country, race, religion and politics.

In August 2012, JCC Rockland will hold the opening ceremonies for our JCC Maccabi Games at the United States Military Academy at West Point. This launches a week-long sporting competition that has been held annually for 30 years across North America and Canada, providing thousands of young athletes with an experience that mirrors the Olympics Games. Wherever held, the JCC Maccabi Games has honored the memory of the Munich 11 in each and every opening ceremony for the past 17 years.* Our Board of Directors has dedicated our JCC Maccabi Games to the Munich 11. During that ceremony, we will stop to give dignity to those 11 lives lost. **We respectfully ask that the IOC bear in mind that over 20 million minutes have passed since Munich 1972...all we want is one.**

Please call or write to David Kirschtel at (845) 362-4400, ext. 108 with a response. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joel Zbar
President, Board of Directors

David Kirschtel
Chief Executive Officer

* See attached resolution by the JCC Association Board of Directors



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RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF JCC ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 2008

Whereas, in September, 1972, in the midst of the Munich Olympics, members of Black September, a group with ties to the Fatah organization, killed two members of the Israeli Olympic Team, and viciously murdered nine others the following day, and

Whereas, the JCC Maccabi Games® has included a memorial tribute to the murdered Israeli athletes, among the first victims of organized terrorism in our time, at the Opening Ceremonies of every JCC Maccabi Games since 1994, and

Whereas, writers and filmmakers have told the story of the Munich 11 to educate the world, and particularly the young, about this tragic event, and

Whereas the recently completed Olympics in Beijing marked yet another instance with no official recognition of the terrorist attack that brutally betrayed the vision of the Olympic Games,

Therefore the Jewish Community Centers of North America resolves to:

1. Continue to educate our young people at the JCC Maccabi Games about the impact of terrorism not only on the world of sports but on the entire international community.
2. Urge the International Olympics Committee to recognize the Munich 11 at every Olympics, beginning with the 2010 Winter Olympics, in the effort to reject and repudiate political terrorism as antithetical to the Olympic goal of peaceful competition.



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