

Open letter to all Belgian Olympic players,

It is as a Tibet activist and in the wake of the upcoming Winter Olympics that I turn to you.

As you can see, the Olympic flag is flown at half-mast and there's a reason for it.

Soon, host country China will welcome you with open arms to participate in the Games. As always this will be watched and followed by the whole world. As professional and selected athletes, you have undoubtedly taken note of the Olympic Charter. Apart from that, as a human being, you have a life ideal, and this you would probably wish for all people on Earth as well. I've got a copy of the Olympic Charter here that I'm going to read a few articles from.

ART.1 Olympism is a philosophy of life that glorifies the qualities of body, will and mind and combines them in a balanced whole. By combining sport with culture and education, Olympism strives to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of a good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles

ART.2 The aim of Olympism is to put sport at the service of the harmonious development of human beings, with a view to promoting a peaceful society aimed at preserving human dignity

ART.5 Any form of discrimination against a country or any person based on race, religion, politics, sex or otherwise is incompatible with membership of the Olympic Movement

And therein lies the problem. You have knowledge of the 70 years of repression that the Tibetan people have to endure. 70 years corresponds to 3 generations. From your parents to your children.

Here is a brief summary of the situation in Tibet since the Chinese invasion of 1950:

More than 1,500,000 Tibetans were killed. More than 6000 monasteries destroyed. Some converted into barracks, worse, some of them became real graveyards. Young monks were rescued from a firing squad by forcibly shooting their Lama. Monks and nuns had to break their wish of celibacy through compulsory sexual relations with each other. Mandatory sterilizations and mandatory abortions were also daily costs for young Tibetan women.

Today the situation is still not much better:

We come to the sad number of 150 self-immolations in recent years. Still no freedom of religion whatsoever, even keeping their national flag or a picture of His Holiness the Dalai Lama is considered a crime and is enough to end up in jail. The completely Tibetan culture disappears, slowly but surely, from the roof of the world. In Tibet, Tibetan schools are

systematically destroyed, monasteries are closed and young monks are banned from continuing their studies of Tibetan Buddhism. Children are forced from military camps, the elderly from labor camps. Arbitrary detentions and disappearances are still a daily occurrence. For many Tibetans there is a precarious situation of famine. You either give in to the Chinese regime or you live in a constant fear of what may come and this should be regarded as living in an undignified existence.... And all of this is precisely what your athletes, having accepted the Olympic Charter, should be championing. Equality for all, regardless of color, language, religion or origin!!! You have an example function and you should use it!!!

In the meantime, as everyone knows, China has been able to spread its madness undisturbed much further than just in Tibet. As far as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Southern Mongolia and the now-discussed issue of the Uigurs...

I am aware of the years of hard and intense training to get to a top level. This of course relates to the countless sponsors you can count on. And they are on you. It is a win-win situation, the better you perform, the more money will end up in the drawer. And vice-versa. Apart from that you have also been able to build an enormous aura around your person, it is therefore natural that magnificent supporter groups have arisen that stand behind you, support you and look to your examples. Both from your achievements but also from your life path and philosophy.

A good example that certainly rightly takes all the credit here is Enes Kanter from the NBA with his video message to the Chinese government!!!

Now, my question to you: what more beautiful and noble sign could you give of yourself and of the supporters?

Dare to stand up against the violation of both human and children's rights!!! What message do you want to leave to history? To your supporters and family members, perhaps to your children? Now stop for a moment, take some distance and ask yourself which is more important, FAME or HONOR. It is no longer possible to pretend that nothing is going on. The facts are there, black on white and sadly tinged with red from all the bloodshed. So what's more important? A Gold Medal, or a Gold Heart?

And in these times of Christmas, what better gift can we give to our neighbors than the wish of a better world for everyone on this planet? This is possible with support and a Boycott of the upcoming Games. Refusing to participate is a very big decision that is difficult to make. Customizing and changing your social media profiles with Flags of Tibet, Taiwan, Mongolia or in the colors of the Ugurs is already a step. Representing the games by wearing national flags of affected countries under repression of China is an even better step, this is possible and this is not a crime!!!

NOW: The question has been asked, the ball is in your court. Do what you have to as an athlete, as a person and let your heart speak. Carry on high that Olympic Charter and show it to the whole world!!!

We hereby jointly file a symbolic complaint against the Olympic Committee for non-compliance with the above Articles of their Olympic Charter.

*Finish with the Tibetan National Anthem.*