



## **Second Open Letter to Kirsty Coventry, President of the International Olympic Committee**

Date: 09.03.2026

Madam President,

In our first letter, we laid out the facts. Iranian sport is not governed by athletes. It is controlled by the ideological machinery of the Islamic Republic. Its federations are not independent institutions. They are extensions of state power.

We documented systemic discrimination against women. We exposed the exclusion of Baha'i athletes on religious grounds. We highlighted antisemitic policies that force Iranian athletes to withdraw rather than compete against Israelis. We detailed the institutional presence of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps at the highest levels of sports administration, including the National Olympic and Paralympic Committees.

The National Olympic and Paralympic Committees of the Islamic Republic do not represent Iranian sport. They represent a regime. They function as political instruments, not sporting bodies. Their mandate is ideological alignment, not athletic excellence. For decades, the Islamic Republic has used sport as a tool to export its doctrine while presenting a sanitized image to the international community.

Through calculated diplomacy inside Olympic structures, regime-aligned figures have secured influential positions. Kaveh Mehrabi, who now holds a senior directors' role within the IOC framework, has two records of avoiding competition against Israeli opponents. Such actions are a direct violation of the Olympic Charter. He has never publicly clarified whether those withdrawals were voluntary or imposed by state pressure. More importantly, he has never spoken out about the systematic coercion faced by Iranian athletes ordered to forfeit matches against Israelis.

**“Silence in this context is not neutrality. It shields a discriminatory policy”**

Soraya Aghaei, elevated to IOC membership with your support, likewise cannot claim to represent the athletes of Iran. She has issued no condemnation of the violent crackdowns carried out by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps against Iranian civilians, including athletes. She is aware that athletes have been killed. She knows many remain imprisoned. Some face execution. Yet she has chosen silence.

At the national level, the President of Iran's Olympic Committee, Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa, is a senior IRGC figure. He was welcomed at the Winter Olympic Games in Milan under IOC invitation and actively lobbied in support of Soraya Aghaei's candidacy. This is not incidental. It reflects a system in which political loyalty outweighs sporting integrity.

Madam President, the Olympic Movement claims to stand for equality, neutrality and human dignity. Those principles are incompatible with enforced forfeits based on nationality, religious exclusion, gender segregation and the imprisonment of athletes..

As the first woman to lead the International Olympic Committee, your response to the repression of Iranian women athletes and the politicisation of Iranian sport will define more than a presidency. It will define whether the Olympic Charter is a living document or a ceremonial text.

In moments of injustice, silence can be perceived as complicity rather than neutrality. We respectfully urge you to act with courage and in accordance with your stated principles by considering the dissolution of the National Olympic Committee of Iranian regime.

### **Signatories**

- Prf. Iradge Ahrabi Fard– Sport academic figure
- Behrouz Sarshar – Judo
- Dr Parviz Yousefi – Gymnastics
- Dr Mostafa Arab – Football
- Ali Karimi – Football
- Dr Mojtaba Pourbakhsh – Sport academic figure
- Reza Soleimani – Water Polo
- Majid Fallah – Kickboxing
- Milad Zeynipoor – Football
- Javad Mahjoub – Judo
- Yal Bashi – Diving
- Saeid Mollaei – Judo
- Sattar Seid – Ski
- Reza Azizi – Karate
- Parviz Kazemi – Volleyball
- Shahram Motejaded – Football
- Mitra Hejazipoor – Chess
- Saeid Bashiri – Boxing
- Shahram Yousefi – Weightlifting
- Sasha Makani – Football
- Mohammad Reza Entezarioun – Cycling
- Ayub Azmoudeh - Wrestling
- Tayeb Azmoudeh – Wrestling
- Mehdi Rostampour – Sport journalist

- Mehdi Emad – Water Polo
- Amir Kamali – Athletics
- Sara Khadem – Chess
- Reza Jodaki - Kung Fu
- Mohammad Reza Faghani – Football
- Rohollah Esfandiari – Karate
- Bahman Azizpour – Boxing
- Esfandiyar Sattari – Athletics
- Mahnaz Fallah – Kickboxing
- Hossein Hezardastan – Handball
- Farzad Youshanlou – Karate
- Fariborz Mofeed – Gymnastics
- Mazyar Yazdani – Equestrian
- Behshad Yavarzadeh – Football
- Aria Soleimani – Water Polo
- Reza Tabrizi – Bodybuilding
- Siamak Varzideh – Boxing
- Reza Robotipour – Karate
- Darioush Mahdavi – Water Polo
- Abdoulwahab Maroofi – Muaythai
- Gitty Mohebban – Fencing
- Hossein Ramezani – Jujitsu
- Amir Rezanajad - Rowing
- Zari Hosseini – Athletics
- Mehrdad Hajir – Diving
- Karim Zandi – Athletics
- Yekta Jamali – Weightlifting
- Bijan Koushki – Football
- Samaneh Khoshghadam – Karate
- Parisa Farshidi – Taekwondo
- Hadi Safi – Karate
- Houshang Bozorgzadeh – Table Tennis
- Shahnaz Mirheidari – Kickboxing
- Khosro Minou – Wushu
- Mahta Gharae – Karate
- Reyhaneh Amro – Canoe Polo
- Peymaneh Amro – Canoe Polo
- Vahid Sarlak – Judo
- Hamed Ziksari – Karate
- Kazem Kelvani – Handball
- Farzad Rostami – Karate
- Armin Ghobadi Pasha – Sport journalist
- Morteza Shahriari – Volleyball
- Sam Rajabi – Jujitsu
- Mohsen Batteni – Bodybuilding

- Ehsan Habibinasab – Bodybuilding
- Hassan Mirza Hosseini – Sport climbing
- Javad Bigdeli – Muaythai
- Setareh Sinaei Pourfard – Bodybuilding
- Ehsan Molaei – Kickboxing
- Hamidreza Kordabadi – Muaythai
- Ali Ansari – Jujitsu
- Behnaz Nasrollahi Azar – Bodybuilding
- Arghavan Jalali – Wushu
- Salar Ghadiri – Swimming
- Sohaila Farahani – Volleyball
- Hossein Saeidloo – Kung Fu
- Armin Ghanizadeh – Bodybuilding
- Khalil Khajeh Jafari – Football
- Shahin Najafi Toh Khoshkeh – MMA
- Saba Sadri – Bodybuilding
- Abdolreza Panahi – Wrestling
- Karim Shafahi – Muaythai
- Milad Ganji – Karate
- Mahan Mehrabi – Futsal
- Akbar Sarbaz – Bodybuilding
- Ebrahim Eshaghi – Wrestling
- Mahmoud Korkabadi – Karate
- Behrouz Panjali – Boxing
- Danial Dehghan – Tennis
- Meysam Eskandari – Bodybuilding
- Neda Rostami – Bodybuilding
- Reza Majidi – Bodybuilding
- Mohammad Namjou – Wrestling
- Enshan Khosravi – Karate
- Hassan Ebrahimzadeh – Boxing
- Iman khazaei – Bodybuilding
- Hedayat Kabiri – Wrestling
- Mostafa Eskandari – Bodybuilding
- Ata Karamati – Weightlifting
- Morteza Jafari – Boxing
- Reza Ahmadnejad – Muaythai
- Ali Jafargholizadeh – Karate
- Masoud Izadi – Muaythai
- Mehrzad Zarei – Karate
- Jamal Valizadeh – Wrestling
- Kourosh Besharati – MMA
- Emad Zenidpour – Football
- Hossein Zenidpour – Cycling

- Yaser Alvandiani – Wushu
- Sepideh Faraji – Bodybuilding
- Valid Mashahirzadeh – Football
- Hossein Hezardastan – Handball
- Mojtaba Lashni – Taekwondo
- Abtin Javid – Bodybuilding
- Amir Felix – Sport journalist
- Mohsen Navaei – Bodybuilding
- Benjamin Malekzadeh – Muaythai
- Mohammad Reza Framarzi – Wrestling
- Jalil Attaei – Wushu
- Diako Firoozi – Muaythai
- Seyed Taghi Pourgholami – Wrestling
- Amir Mohammad Ebadati – Muaythai
- Behnam Bayat – Taekwondo
- Niki Omrani – Squash
- Davood Ojaghi – Kickboxing
- Hamoon Derafshipour – Karate
- Samira Malekpour – Karate
- Ardeshir Ghandoumi – Athletics
- Ahmad Madadi – Swimming
- Amir Hossein Keyvani – Muaythai
- Parisa Jahan Fekrian – Bodybuilding
- Leila Javid – Athletics
- Salar Gholami - Boxing
- Amir Lavasani – Wrestling
- Ali Abdollahi Atashgah – Rugby
- Roozbeh Ebrahimi – Muaythai
- Amir Hossein Keyvani – Muaythai
- Mehrdad Cheraghi – Kickboxing
- Yasin Abdollahi – Rowing
- Mehdi Norouzi – Football
- Behrouz Jafari Birjandi – Athletics
- Reza Foroutan – MMA
- Vansha Roudbarki – Karate
- Fariborz Gharib – Sport journalist
- Mohammad Reza Faraji – Kickboxing
- Marzieh Safari – Wushu
- Malek Ziaei – Water Polo
- Iman Mahdavi – Wrestling
- Behzad Omidi – Karate
- Saeid Mahdikhah – Taekwondo
- Abbas Amin Torabi – Bodybuilding
- Danial Azizi – Karate
- Yaghoob Najari – Judo

- Hamid Sarem – Wrestling
- Mohammad Jamali – Bodybuilding
- Shahriar Shomalizadeh – Kickboxing
- Shahram Heydari Makri – Karate
- Mehrdad Jafari – Rowing
- Esmail Momenianpour – Taekwondo
- Mohammad Reza Topchi Lari – Karate
- Mehdi Mirzaei – Kickboxing
- Ali Rahimi – Ski
- Amir Hossein Tamizkar – Karate
- Ehsan Heydari – Karate
- Mahan Baghdadi – Football
- Esmail Torkzad - Karate
- Melika Belali – Judo
- Morteza Hashemian – Karate
- Ali Ajdadi – Karate
- Amir Valadkhani – Karate
- Kianoush Farjad – Karate
- Mohammad Shishegarha – Bodybuilding
- Hadi Azadmanesh – Football
- Mahshid Norouzian – Basketball
- Sina Gholbandi – Boxing
- Hengameh Kianian – Karate
- Abolfazl Abbasi – Taekwondo
- Yousef Mohammadi Moghaddam – Karate
- Kourosch Lotfi – Karate
- Zahra Mehri – Karate
- Mahmoud Reshno Nejat – Judo
- Nasrin Hatamipour – Karate
- Mehdi Ahmadian – Muaythai
- Bagher Faraji – Boxing
- Javad Faraji – Boxing
- Alireza Bahrnifar – Judo
- Mohammad Mansouri – Judo
- Gila Mohajer – Hockey
- Hamoud Sattari – Muaythai
- Majid Abbasi Feshki – Boxing
- Saeed Fazlollah – Rowing
- Mahboubeh Barbari – Judo
- Amir Asadollah – Powerlifting