



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

**Corporate Communications and
Public Affairs Department**

Lausanne, 1 October 2020

Via email

Dear Professor,

Thank you very much for your joint letter to the IOC President, Thomas Bach, dated 15 September 2020.

The recent execution of wrestler Navid Afkari in Iran was very sad and shocking news for all of us.

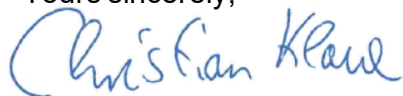
As you may know, the IOC and United World Wrestling (UWW) took action as soon as we learned about the case. We were in contact with non-governmental and human rights organisations from the very beginning. We also took part in conversations that included representatives from various governments, human rights organisations and the United Nations. The IOC and UWW also followed up with the Iranian NOC and the Iranian Wrestling Federation respectively, which did their utmost to facilitate a solution. The IOC President wrote personal letters to the Supreme Leader and to the President of Iran appealing for mercy for Navid, while respecting the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We appreciate the concern and broad engagement of so many athletes and international sports organisations, in particular UWW. Unfortunately, our joint efforts were not successful.

As a civil, non-governmental organisation, the IOC has neither the remit nor the ability to change the laws or political system of a sovereign country. This is the legitimate role of governments and the respective intergovernmental organisations. Exclusion of an NOC from the Olympic Games would punish the athletes of this country just because they live under a particular political or judicial system. This would be even more unfair given that the NOC of Iran facilitated the IOC's efforts in this case.

We thank you for your shared concern and efforts to save the life of Navid Afkari.

Yours sincerely,



Christian Klaue
Director