

May 10, 2017

Janez Kocijančič
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Re: Minsk 2019 and Human Rights Concerns in Belarus

Dear Mr. Kocijančič,

Thank you for your April 25, 2017 response to our letter regarding serious human rights concerns in Belarus.

Given that the Minsk 2019 Games agreement has yet to be signed, we strongly encourage the EOC to incorporate the human rights and anti-corruption provisions, which the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recently approved to be included in future Host City Contracts, beginning with the 2024 Olympic Games. The IOC has recognized that these provisions set a minimum standard for human rights compliance expected of all Olympic hosts. The IOC considers these binding contractual requirements and that failure to comply with these standards “may result in serious consequences and have adverse impacts, not only in respect of the Games..., but also on general public confidence in respect of future Games.”

Incorporating these principles into the Minsk 2019 agreement and future European Games agreements would demonstrate the EOC’s commitment to these fundamental principles and its alignment with the International Olympic movement’s commitment to human rights protection. They are also important measures to help ensure that Belarus, as a European Games host city, respects and promotes universal human rights and monitors and remedies any violations.

The EOC should include the following provisions in the Minsk 2019 European Games agreement (as in Articles 13 and 15, elements of the Core Principles of the IOC Host City Contract):

- The parties agree to conduct their activities related to the organization of the Games in a manner which promotes and enhances the fundamental principles and values of Olympism, as well as the development of the Olympic Movement.
- Prohibit any form of discrimination with regard to a country or person on grounds of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- Protect and respect human rights and ensure any violation of human rights is remedied in a manner consistent with international agreements, laws, and



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regulations applicable in the Host Country, and in a manner consistent with all internationally-recognized human rights standards and principles, including the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, applicable in the Host Country;

- Take all necessary measures, where necessary in cooperation with Host Country Authorities and other third parties, to ensure that their activities in relation to the organization of the Games comply with any international agreements, laws, and regulations applicable in the Host Country, with regard to planning, construction, protection of the environment, health and safety, labor and working conditions and cultural heritage.
- Refrain from any act involving fraud or corruption, in a manner consistent with any international agreements, applicable Belarusian laws, and all internally-recognized anti-corruption standards applicable in Belarus, including establishing and maintain effective reporting and compliance.

Also in line with the IOC's commitments, the EOC should establish a reporting mechanism to address the contractual obligations outlined above regarding anti-corruption, human rights protection, and effective remedy for violations.

Similarly, the EOC should make public the Minsk 2019 agreement and other relevant host city documents. As you may know, in September 2015 the IOC for the first time published all the documents related to Olympic Candidature, including Candidature Process Olympic Games 2024, Candidature Questionnaire Olympic Games 2024, Host City Contract Principles, and Host City Contract Operational Requirements.

During the upcoming EOC Executive Committee meeting on May 18, we encourage you to personally advocate for the EOC to take these essential steps regarding the Minsk 2019 agreement.

Ahead of Belarus 2019, the EOC has a crucial opportunity to strengthen the Olympic movement's commitment to human rights and anti-corruption by incorporating the principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and the IOC Host City Contract requirements into its own operations and agreements with European Games host countries. Particularly given the heightened climate of repression in Belarus, as detailed in our April 18 letter, anything less risks damage to the integrity of the Olympic movement and the EOC.

We look forward to your response, which you may send to me, Jane Buchanan, Associate Director, Europe and Central Asia Division, Human Rights Watch, buchanj@hrw.org; +1-212-216-1857, on behalf of the Sport and Rights Alliance signatories below.

Sincerely,

Naomi Westland
Amnesty International

Courtney Radsch
Committee to Protect Journalists



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Marc Joly
Terre des Hommes International Federation

Sylvia Schenk
Chair of Working Group Sport
Transparency International-Germany

Brendan Schwab
UNI Global Union
World Players Association (including its affiliate EU Athletes)