

We, the Youth Council under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, appeal to the International Olympic Committee regarding Russia's participation in its activities.

Russia violated the Olympic Truce by attacking Ukraine during the 2022 Olympic Games. This truce was established by a special resolution of the UN General Assembly on November 24, 2021. According to the IOC Charter, the goal of the Olympic movement is to promote sport "in a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play". However, Russia is ruining not only fair play, but also the lives of Ukrainian athletes. We believe the only fair play is to ban Russian athletes from the Olympics.

As of March 24, 262 Ukrainian athletes have been brutally murdered by the Russian army. Another 16 are wounded, 28 are in captivity, and 6 are reported missing. Russian military aggression has also caused approximately \$250 million worth of damage to 343 sports facilities in Ukraine as of February 2, 2023. But the real figures could be much higher. And they will continue to rise unless Russia ends this vicious war.

Ukrainian athletes Volodymyr Androshchuk, Maksym Chumak, Kateryna Dyachenko, Yevhen Malyshev will not represent their country at the Paris Olympics in 2024 because they were slaughtered by Russian forces. At the same time, the IOC announces that Russian athletes are welcome in Paris. While the families of brutally murdered Ukrainian athletes mourn the loss of their loved ones under constant shelling and air raid sirens, Russian athletes enjoy the benefits of tranquil and welcoming European cities.

Despite their claims that sport is out of politics, Russian athletes publicly support the barbaric and cruel war being waged by their country.

Russian athletes regularly take part in events in support of the Russian regime, the war against Ukraine, and the occupation of Ukrainian territory. An example of this is the participation of Russian Olympic champions and athletes in a rally in the Luzhniki Stadium dedicated to the anniversary of the occupation of Crimea.

Ivan Kuliak, a Russian artistic gymnast, gained notoriety in March 2022 for displaying a pro-invasion "Z" symbol during the official medal ceremony. Former Olympic figure skater Evgeni Plushchenko expressed support for Russia's military intervention in Ukraine, stating that it was necessary to "protect Russian citizens" and that every Russian should be proud of their country. Anton Shipulin, a biathlon world champion and Russian State Duma deputy, voted in favor of recognizing the occupied Ukrainian territories as independent republics in February 2022. Later, this law allowed Russian troops to invade Ukraine and start a full-scale war.

In total, more than 200 Russian athletes officially support their government's imperialist policies. At the 2020-21 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Russia won 71 medals, 45 of which went to athletes from the Russian army's Central Sports Club (CSCA). Every third Russian athlete at the 2022 Beijing Olympics was a soldier in the Russian army. The army that is committing atrocities, killing, raping and plundering the Ukrainian people. So a logical question arises: How can the IOC ensure the main provisions of its charter if Russian athletes continue to be a core of pro-war propaganda?

The answer is simple: All Russian athletes must be banned from Olympic activities until Russia's brutal and unprovoked war ends.

The presence of those who support the horrific atrocities committed by the Russian armed forces at the Olympics is a manifestation of violence and lawlessness, not fair competition in a spirit of brotherhood.

Russia's white flag belongs on the battlefield, not at the Olympics.