



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 26 Januari 2022

BOYCOTT BEIJING 2022' [1]: ABSEILING FROM THE IJZERTOREN

SATERDAY 29th JANUARY 2022

Free Tibet, Human Rights and Environmental activists join to call on governments, national Olympic committees, Olympic athletes and Olympic sponsors to end their support of the "Genocide Games"

Strong from their previous actions, including "Saint-Jean-Pied-De-Port / Santiago de Compostella" - 840km in 27 days - and "Walk 4 The Children of Tibet" - Ostend / Anderlecht in less than 44 hours - **Hiking 4 Children** and **International Alliance for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms** has been able to realize a partnership with **VZW Aan de IJzer** to raise the bar of their actions even higher. With **Tibetan community of Belgium, Uyghurs Association, International Campaign for Tibet, European Association for The Defense of Minorities** and **Gary Cartwright**, Autor Journalist, **EU TODAY** join forces to expose the ongoing violation of human and children's rights as well as the genocide of minorities in China.

On the forthcoming Olympics Winter games in China, February '22, Rights groups, and their supporters in over 50 cities across 25 countries are calling on governments, Olympic Committees, Olympic Sponsors and all people of conscience to take a stand against one of the worst human rights crises of our time by boycotting the 2022 Beijing Winter Games.

With this action we also hope to finally be heard by the Belgian Olympic Committee and their Athletes. To make this happened an "open letter"[2] to them will be read in front of the press.

The situation in Tibet has deteriorated dramatically and is classed by Freedom House as the least-free country in the world, tied with Syria;[3] in East Turkistan (Ch: Xinjiang) between 1.8 and three million Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples are arbitrarily detained in “re-education camps,” enduring inhuman treatment and political indoctrination;[4] in Hong Kong, the city’s vibrant community of human rights activists and outspoken youths have been rounded up by the thousands for simply advocating for democracy;[5] in Southern Mongolia, children are being deprived of their right to speak their mother tongue, as the Chinese government has intensified its crackdown on cultural differences. China’s reach extends to extreme intimidation and geopolitical bullying of Taiwan and aggression and expansion across borders in the South China Sea and India-Tibet border, which present a clear threat to regional and global security.

For two decades, representatives of the coalition have repeatedly sought to inform the IOC about these conditions, explain the dangers of awarding China the Olympic Games, and caution against accepting any human rights assurances from one of the world’s worst human rights violators.[6]

With the International Olympic Committee completely failing to act despite clear evidence of genocide and widespread and worsening human rights failures, the coalition states that it now falls on governments, sponsors, national Olympic committees, and athletes to take a stand and demonstrate that they have the political will to push back against China’s reprehensible human rights abuses.

A growing chorus of voices have already begun to push back against many of these abuses.

WHERE AND WHEN: Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 2:30 p.m., IJzertoren (IJzerdijk 49, 8600 Diksmuide)

WHAT: A professional climbing team consisting of 5 people will highlight the diplomatic boycott of the upcoming Winter Olympics in China by abseiling from the IJzer Tower with a large Tibetan flag of 5 meters by 3 meters, Uyghur flags and a large banner to reinforce this symbolic and above all diplomatic boycott of the upcoming Winter Games together.

WHO: Hiking 4 Children is composed for this action of:

- David 'Mukti' Vander Maelen

- Nick 'Moonlove' de Jonghe

- Bruno 'Bake' Bakeroot

- Sebastian 'Shiba' Brouwers

- Mounir Feyereisen

Technical support team : Steven Vermeesch

BACKGROUND:

NoBeijing2022.org is a global initiative developed in coordination with represented communities and supporters on six continents.

A Non-Profit organization, a pillar as support for underprivileged children, a State of Mind: [Hiking 4 Children](#) is a trek for the benefit of underprivileged children. This non-profit action, an organization of [Transmission Entertainment & Events](#), aims to raise financial resources by organizing walking tours and thus providing support to recognized organizations that are committed to the well-being of children.

[Tibetan Community Belgium](#) A coming together of Tibetans, Tibetan NGO's, groups and supporters in Belgium for the benefit of Tibetans in Exile and the Tibetan fight for political and religious freedoms within Tibet.

The [Belgium Uyghur Association](#) is the affiliate organization of the World Uyghur Congress in Belgium. It represents the Uyghur community in Belgium, and through its campaigning and advocacy activities strives to promote human rights, freedom, and democracy for the Uyghur people.

[International Tibet Network](#) The International Tibet Network is a global coalition of Tibet-related non-governmental organizations. Its purpose is to maximize the effectiveness of the worldwide Tibet movement. The Network works to increase the capacity of individual member organizations, develops coordinated strategic campaigns, and encourages increased cooperation among organizations, thereby strengthening the Tibet movement as a whole.

[eadm](#) (European Association for The Defense of Minorities) A nonprofit organization which defends human rights of Minorities in the Middle East.

International Alliance for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms [Aidl](#) is consulted by the UN, and [Postversa](#) is an organization that promotes fundamental rights through a state reform co-organised by citizens, who is the motor for an umbrella organisation of more than 150 civil society organisations.

Contacts:

- Peter Mouton - directeur, Vzw Aan de IJzer, peter.mouton@aandeijszer.be, +32 476 45 61 63
- Johan Velghe - ondervoorzitter, Vzw Aan de IJzer, johan.velghe@skynet.be +32 474 76 55 88
- Andy Vermaut, International Alliance for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms, denktankcarmenta@gmail.com + 32 499 357 495
- David Vander Maelen, Hiking 4 Children, david.vandermaelen@hotmail.com , +32 477 547 347
- Tsering Palden, Tibetan Community in Belgium, paltseringtibet@gmail.com , +32 485 848 735
- Ekber Tursun, Belgium Uyghur Association, ekber.t@protonmail.com, +32 487 198 492
- Gary Cartwright, Autor Journalist, consulting@oveos.net, +32 487 368 244
- Manel Msalmi, President of the European Association for The Defense of Minorities, eadmassociation@gmail.com + 32 496 607 066
- Koen Stoop, World Uyghur Congress, k.stoop@uyghurcongress.org

NOTES:

1. <https://nobeijing2022.org/>
2. Open letter to Belgian Athletes – Attachment 1.
3. <https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores?sort=asc&order=Total%20Score%20and%20Status>
4. <https://xjdp.aspi.org.au/explainers/uyghurs-for-sale/>
5. Committee to Protect Journalists: https://cpj.org/data/imprisoned/2019/?status=Imprisoned&start_year=2019&end_year=2019&group_by=location
6. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/22/china-repression-threatens-winter-olympics>
7. Andy Vermaut, Nota – Attachment 2.
8. Speech from EKBER TURSUN, Belgian Uyghurs Association – Attachment 3.
9. Link and Photos of our "Flash Mob" 04/12/21 Olympic Committee Brussels - Attachment 4.

Attachment 1.

Open letter to all Belgian Olympic Athletes,

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

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 wish for all people on Earth as well.

I have 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 must endure. 70 years corresponds to 3 generations. From your parents to your children.

Here is a 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 so discussed issue of the Ugurs!!!

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 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!!! <https://fb.watch/aatalWvcZZ/>

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, 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 is 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.

HIKING 4 CHILDREN



This is the real map of china. Request to all of you please make it viral across the world by sharing this picture on different types of social sites like Facebook WhatsApp etc.

Attachment 2.

” China’s human rights record has come under question in recent years.

Many governments, including the United States, have accused China of committing a genocide against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities. China continues to dispute the claims while disregarding the proof. The Falung Gong are also employed for forced organ harvesting. Human defense and human rights groups have also voiced worry about Beijing's persecution of Tibetans and curbs on Hong Kong's freedoms. The strange disappearance of a number of Falung Gong-practitioners from public view feeds mistrust even further.

I represent a coalition of over 150 civil society groups, including D19-20, AIDL, PostVersa, and the World Council for Public Diplomacy and Community Dialogue, we all believe that a participation in the Beijing Olympics is an endorsement of the Chinese Communist Party's authoritarian rule. There should be also a considerable debate about whether the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which organizes and oversees the games, is a "politically neutral" body. We should all assist organize a full boycott; the government of a nation should not allow its residents to travel overseas to participate in large athletic events. We should terminate diplomatic ties with China. All athletes if they are genuinely sportive and all government officials, should set a good example by refusing to participate.

If China does not quit persecuting Uyghurs and the Falung Gong-practitioners, we should boycott the 2022 Olympics. Athletes should all chose to boycott the games or use them as a venue for political activity. Despite IOC penalties, officials from the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committees have maintained that athletes will not be penalized for protesting. All sponsors should remove their support immediately.”

ANDY VERMAUT: D19-20, AIDL, PostVersa, World Council for Public Diplomacy and Community Dialogue

Attachment 3.

Dear friends,

My name is **Ekber Tursun, from Belgium Uyghur Association.**

Thank you all for coming here and support us.

China will host Olympic games next month in Beijing. I watched the last Olympic games on TV. But this time I will not watch it, because it will be taking place in a country where the human rights is violated against Uyghurs, people in Tibet and in Mongolia.

Since the previous year's Chinese government has built many concentration camps and practiced its so-called reeducation program. Many Uyghurs-at least 3 million of Uyghurs have been arrested and sent to the camp. The Uyghur intellectuals who played the important role in Uyghur society have been taken to the camp. Many young parents are suffering in the camp and their children were left behind without anyone to care. According to the media more than half millions of Uyghur children are sent by Chinese government to the so-called kinder gardens which are the camps for the children.

Chinese government is practicing the forced labor of Uyghurs which is illegal around the world, the clothes you are buying from Zara shops are made by Uyghur forced labor.

According to the camp survivor Uyghur women are raped in the camp, suffering inhuman violation, they are forced to be sterilized. All of them in the camps should give up by force their Uyghur identity. We have told a lot to the world that China is eliminating the Uyghurs, we are seeing the silence, we will again tell the world China is eliminating the Uyghurs.

Olympic games mean peace to the humanity, but People in my country East Turkistan are not in peace, China is not a right place to organize the Olympics. There were many protests before to demand International Olympic Committee to cancel Beijing Olympics and move it to another country where people are in peace. However, IOC is ignoring the voice of repressed people, Shame on IOC for not standing with democracy and human rights, but with a government of atrocity.

What China is doing in my country is a genocide against Uyghur people and 7 countries including Belgium recognized it as genocide. 6 countries diplomatically boycotted the Beijing Olympic Games. But it is not enough, the voice of Uyghurs, Tibetans and Mongolians must be heard, their rights to live as the human being must be respected.

China is not only a threat to us, but also it is threat to the peace of the world, world leader must wake up and recognize this before it is too late. We hope the international community do not trust that China is respecting human rights. Because we are still here with our protest. The peace of us is the peace of the world. We will not stop our fight; we need your support. Thank you.

Attachment 4.

<https://www.hiking4children.be/flash-mob-4-12-21-olympic-comittee-brussels>



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