



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Communications Department

Ref. No. MAS/nbr
By e-mail only

Netherlands Helsinki Committee
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Lausanne, 6 August 2015

Letter to IOC RE: Olympic Winter Games 2022 Candidate City - Kazakhstan

Dear Harry Hummel,

Thank you for your recent letter to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach, who has asked me to reply to you on his behalf.

Since you wrote to us, Beijing has been elected as the Olympic Winter Games Host City for 2022. Nevertheless, please find below some information which we hope you will find helpful.

During the evaluation process of the Candidate Cities for the Olympic Winter Games 2022, the Evaluation Commission considered statements and opinions in independent third-party reports – including Human Rights Watch - with regards to: environmental protection, the treatment of detainees, media freedom, Internet access, the right to demonstrate, and the integrity of the judicial and electoral systems. The Commission raised these issues with both Almaty and Beijing as well as the relevant authorities. The IOC asked for and received assurances from both parties that the Host City Contract and the Olympic Charter would be respected for all participants of the Olympic Games and in Olympic-related matters.

With regards to Almaty, assurances were provided concerning the following matters: right to demonstrate, media freedom to report on the Games and Games preparations, with no restrictions on the internet, labour rights and displacement

More information in this respect can be found in the Commission's report, which is available on our website [here](#). 

Where cases of mistreatment or abuse are identified – and clearly related to the staging of the Olympic Games – the IOC has a long-standing commitment to follow-up on those issues.

We have a systematic and ongoing relationship with a number of international non-governmental organisations, and whenever we receive detailed allegations from them, we have undertaken to obtain precise and clear responses from the organising committee and, through them, the local authorities.

At the same time, as a sporting organisation, we are not in a position to dictate the wider laws of any sovereign nation. We are not a world government. Our role is to ensure that the Olympic Charter is fully respected during the Games, and that when it comes to evaluating Candidate Cities and electing Host Cities, we have the necessary guarantees that there is no discrimination of any kind.

We thank you for taking the time to write to us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Adams', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Adams
Communications Director