



Deputy Foreign Minister

Jerusalem, 23 April 2012

**Dr. Jacques Rogge**  
**President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)**  
**Chateau de Vidy Lausanne**  
**Switzerland**

Dear Dr. Rogge,

I am writing to you on a matter of great concern to the Government of Israel. The upcoming Olympic Games in London will be held exactly 40 years after the Munich Olympics where 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team were murdered by terrorists. Throughout those dark days during the Olympics 40 years ago, the terrorists didn't just target Israelis; they tried to pierce the very spirit and fraternity upon which the Olympic Games are built.

The Olympic Games are a unique global event which transcends nations, peoples and boundaries and are meant to be a joyous event for all. However, for Israel and its people, each Summer Olympic Games also reminds us of the brutal murders which took place in the Munich Olympic Village during the summer of 1972.

The recently created slogan for the London Olympic Games is "Inspire a Generation". For this generation to be truly inspired, we have to provide for a better future, while adequately bequeathing a reminder of the past. The history of the Olympic Games must always be remembered, enshrining both the good memories as well as the bad.

Perhaps the darkest chapter in modern Olympic Games history is the moment where eleven Israelis, who came to compete in the greatest global sporting event, were murdered simply because of their nationality. We must remain vigilant against acts of hate and intolerance that stand in contrast to the ideals of the international Olympics.

To send this clear and unequivocal message, the Israelis whose lives were brutally cut short 40 years ago should be remembered. We fully support Mrs. Ankie Spitzer and Mrs. Ilana Romano, whose husbands, Andre Spitzer and Yossef Romano, were amongst the 11 Israelis murdered, in their call for a minute silence during this summer's Olympic Games.

I call upon the International Olympic Committee to grant this wish, not just for the memory of their husbands and the other slain athletes, but to send a clear message that we must not forget the terrible events of Munich forty years ago so they will not be repeated.



Deputy Foreign Minister

I appeal to you to commemorate the lives of the Israeli Olympic Team, to remember their savage murder and to send a message that the International Olympic Committee will stand against hatred and violence.

I look forward to receiving your positive response on this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large 'D' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Danny Ayalon  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Israel

Cc:

**Lord Sebastian Coe**

Head of "The London Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games"  
(LOCOG)

**Mr. Alex Gilady**

Member of the International Olympic Committee

**Mr. Zvi Varshaviak**

Chairman of the Olympic Committee of Israel