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Appeal and Open Letter to the President of the French
Republic

For an Olympic Truce during the Paris Olympic Games!

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(Image by IA / Pressenza)

The ancient Greeks suspended all warring between themselves for the duration of the Olympic Games. To respect the Olympic Spirit, we must do the same.

The Games then lasted five days, but the truce lasted a month before and a month after to allow the athletes to travel to and from Olympia. The Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024 taking place from 26 July to 8 September, the UN General Assembly decided on 21.11.2023, on a proposal from France, a truce from 19 July to 15 September. Why not sooner? Anyway, extended if necessary, it should enable all States represented at the Olympics to lay the foundations for a lasting global peace based on justice and respect for international law.

With Russia still at war with Ukraine, the IOC could allow its athletes to compete under its flag, if it stops firing and agrees to negotiate the terms of its return to the recognized borders of Ukraine, which it had committed to respect, and its political sovereignty, by signing the Budapest Memorandum of 5 December 1994. This respect being the rule does not exclude that the fate of Crimea can be decided by its population via a referendum under control of the UN or the OSCE, nor that the status of Donbass is the subject of a negotiated agreement. On both sides, civilians and the military will appreciate this respite granted to their lives, especially since it could become definitive.

In the Middle East, after an urgent ceasefire that can no longer wait, a just and lasting peace will have to be negotiated between the Palestinians - who will have to have a delegation to the Olympics despite the hundred high-level athletes killed in the bombing of Gaza-, and Israel - which must stop the massacres and lift the blockade permanently.

Wherever war rages, it must be suspended and its motives resolved diplomatically.

This time of peace must also be seized by nuclear weapons states to begin negotiating the complete elimination of these weapons. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council -the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China- are obliged to do so by Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), that remained

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unapplied since 1970. The four other states with these weapons -Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea- will have to be involved in the negotiations, as well as the six countries that host them (American in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Turkey, Russian in Belarus).

These weapons, "*fundamentally dangerous, extraordinarily expensive, militarily ineffective and morally indefensible*" according to US General Lee Butler, former head of the *Strategic Air Command*, are weapons of crime against humanity, contrary to the Geneva Conventions, to International Humanitarian Law, and to the United Nations Charter. At the opposite pole from the Olympic ideal, they offer nations the example of the worst violence: the threat of massacres. They are claimed to be a means of preventing wars (which they clearly do not do), but are in fact a means of imposing the domination of countries that have them over those that do not.

They also represent a huge waste at a time when humanity needs to devote all its strength to face the terrible challenges of the present time, social, human and environmental, especially climate change.

According to the IOC Charter, "The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity".

That is why we call on athletes, the Olympic Committee, the spectators of the Paris Olympics and all those who love peace and humanity to unite to demand leaders from around the world:

- the cessation of all ongoing wars,
- the opening of negotiations between the parties in conflict, with a view to achieving a just and lasting peace
- ▶ the end of the arms race and the planned elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Protect life, demand peace!

Cease fire! Stop the massacres! Stop the wars!

Yes to an Olympic Truce!

Signature Form

To return to: contact@acdn.net

I, the undersigned, declare that I support the Call for an Olympic Truce during the Paris Olympics and agree that my first name, my LAST NAME, my position and my nationality be published as a signatory of this Call.

First name, LAST NAME, Position (function, NGO, title or profession), nationality (please on the same line):

Place:

Date:

For signature, below, E-mail and/or complete postal address (not to be published):