



*CHESS FEDERATION OF I.R.IRAN*

**TO:**

**FIDE President,**

**FIDE Council,**

**All esteemed FIDE members Associations,**

Please kindly find below Iran Chess Federation statement in response to the proposed resolution by Mr. Nigel Short, FIDE Vice President and England Chess Federation to the 2020 FIDE Online General Assembly:

**Introduction:**

- Iran Chess Federation has taken extensive measures in recent years to develop chess in Iran and its 45,252 FIDE members, it worth to consider this number of members makes up about 5% of the total FIDE chess community around the world.
- Iran is in top place in the list of organizers of Rated tournaments in the world with more than 1000 Rated tournaments per year. This means chess is very popular among Iranian people and has many professional followers.
- Iran hold the 2017 Women's World championship, while it was repeatedly delayed for nearly a year due to the lack of a host, at the total cost of 900,000 USD (nine hundred thousand dollars). This is an evidence how Iran is interested in supporting to expand the chess very closely with the FIDE.
- In response to FIDE letter on 06/08/2020, Iran Chess Federation sent its reply on 06/22/2020 and has not explained how it never violated the Olympic Charter. And Iran has tried its best to expand the field of chess and restore hope among 80 million Iranians during the Corona pandemic outbreak. Please noted that in Iran there is no prohibiting law for not competing with any other country and this is a personal beliefs of the players who do not participate in some matches. However, in recent years, players from different countries have not played against some countries, and a review of the records shows that the above countries have not been questioned in this regard.



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- Iran has been known for many years as one of the places of origin and growth of chess and in recent years, Iranian players have been among the best players in the world with considerable progress. This in itself can be a wake-up call for countries that once had the most powerful players in the world. Unfortunately, in recent years, Iranian players have been subjected to a lot of psychological pressure due to issues related to the suspension of the Iranian Chess Federation and the fear of an uncertain future has created despair and hopelessness among Iranian chess players.
- Many Iranian players love their country and their flag and are not interested in playing under the flags of other countries or FIDE. This is an innate instinct that exists among many people around the world regarding beliefs in their country and their country's flag.
- Any discussion about the suspension of Iran is a heavy blow to the beliefs of the young generation who are attached to the field of chess, and this will change the interest of Iranian youth in this field. And this will cause irreparable damage to Iranian chess and finally to the chess of the whole world. Also, the proposal to change the flag of Iranian players to the flag of FIDE, which has been raised in the media by the Vice President of FIDE, is an unprincipled proposal that will destroy the identity of the Iranian youth.
- Many of the documents which shared by England Chess Federation in the resolution is linked to some news published to News agencies and are totally unrelated to the Iranian Federation. Iran Chess Federation has no oversight or responsibility for the content of the media throughout the country, and in many cases, the opinion of this federation is not in line with theirs. Also, many of the events held for some players by NGOs are non-governmental and have nothing to do with the Chess Federation.



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**Responses:**

**There are many thought-provoking statements made by the England Chess Federation and the Grand Master, Nigel Short FIDE Vice-President regarding the Iranian Chess Federation, some of which are mentioned below.**

**Proposed RESOLUTION**

Congress notes: The continuing boycotts by Iranians of Israeli players in chess and other sports, most recently at the World **Junior 2019** when GM Mohammad Amin Tabatabaei and IM Aryan Gholami refused to play.

**Answer:** In response to FIDE letter on 06/08/2020, Iran Chess Federation sent its reply on 06/22/2020 and has not explained how it never violated the Olympic Charter.

Congress notes: The resolution of the ECU passed unanimously at The ECU General Assembly, meeting in Skopje on March 23 rd., 2019 requesting of the FIDE Presidential Board:  
A statement that such **individual boycotts** will no longer be tolerated.

Congress requests: The Iranian Chess Federation to ensure no future boycotts

**Answer:** In many countries Athletes do not participate in competitions for personal reasons. Athletes are responsible for this Decision and the federation does not interfere in this issue.

Congress notes: The harassment of Sarasadat Khademalsharieh by the Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) who was prevented from boarding an aeroplane to the Gibraltar tournament.

**Answer:** Sara Khademalsharieh will soon take part in the FIDE Grand Prix and in her recent interviews she points to her unwillingness to change her nationality.



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Congress notes: The execution of Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari September 2020 despite the intervention of the IOC President Thomas Bach.

Congress notes: The action of the International Judo Federation (IJF) against the Iran Judo Federation

**Answer:** The Iranian Chess Federation adheres to the rules of the Olympic Committee and does not interfere in matters related to other organizations. The National Olympic Committee of Iran currently has 57 supported national federations under its umbrella, all of them which are members of their world federations. And they carry out their activities under Olympic charter and in a constructive atmosphere.

Iran Chess Federation expects FIDE and all member associations to adhere to the slogan of the World Chess Federation " Fédération Internationale des Échecs." to support his/her Iranian chess players and like many other world federations of other disciplines, treats Iran with tact and intelligence.

Congress resolves: That failure of the Iranian Chess Federation to request their players compete against all countries in FIDE before the next GA, or any future boycott by an Iranian player, will automatically result in the Iranian Chess Federation's suspension from all FIDE activities.

**Answer:** Here is a question. Doesn't request and force players mean interfering in players' decisions, contrary to the Olympic Charter? Also, considering that it is possible to participate in various international tournaments without the permission of the federation. The Chess Federation can not take responsibility for the personal preferences of the players during the tournaments.



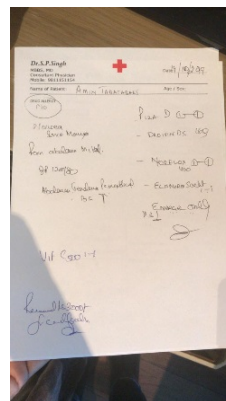
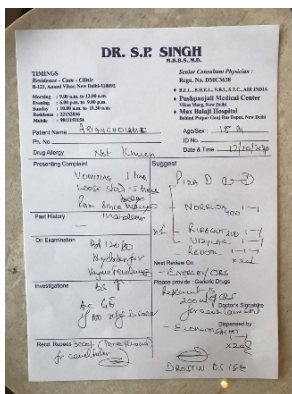
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1. Arian Gholami (FIN: 12513342) in Rilton Cup 2019
2. Alireza Firouzja (12573981) In Grenke Open 2019
3. Mobina Alinasab (12528897) Elllobregat Open 2019
4. Pouya Idani (12503096) 2020 Gibraltar Masters Chess Festival

**Answer:** In all the cases which were mentioned in the resolution of the England Chess Federation, Iranian players participated in this Open Tournament at their own expense and have applied directly to participate in these competitions and as a result, Iran Chess Federation was not responsible for the decisions of the players.

4. M. Amin Tabatabaei (FIN: 12521213) in World Junior 2019 In the World Junior 2019 in Chennai, Amin Tabatabaei failed to turn up for his sixth round clash on board 11 against his Israeli opponent, like Arian he submitted a medical certificate, but refused to be checked by the tournament doctor, and Iranian media and also Indian media announced that it was a political move:

**Answer:** It should be noted that in the regulations of the tournament did not mention the obligation of the players to use the tournament doctor. Also, no written or oral letter or any warning about checking by the tournament doctor did not sent to the officials of the Iranian team and the players to be refused by them



Amin Tabatabaei and Arian Gholami were examined by the doctor of the competition hotel, who was an Indian, and medical prescriptions for both players are available



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5. Withdrawal from World Youth Chess Olympiad Only 2 days before the start of the event, the Iranian Chess Federation decided to withdraw from the event, after receiving a warning from FIDE regarding forfeiture against Israel.

<https://www.isna.ir/news/98080502474/>

The president of Iranian Chess Federation, Mehrdad Pahlavanzadeh, in his interview with ISNA News Agency implies that they withdraw from event because of Israeli Team.

رئیس فدراسیون شطرنج: به دلایل مالی و یکسری ملاحظات از المپیاد جهانی انصراف دادیم



مehرداد پهلوان زاده می گوید که به دلیل مشکلات مالی و شرایط خاص تصمیم گرفته که از اعزام ملی پوشان به رقابت های المپیاد جهانی صرف نظر کند.

رئیس فدراسیون شطرنج در گفتگو با ایسنا، در باره اعزام نشدن تیم ملی ایران به مسابقات المپیاد جهانی نوجوانان (زیر ۱۶ سال) که در ترکیه برگزار می شود گفت: به دلیل مشکلات مالی و یکسری ملاحظات که در شطرنج وجود داشت تصمیم گرفتیم از این مسابقه انصراف دهیم.

او افزود: فدراسیون جهانی نام ایران را از این مسابقات حذف نکرده بلکه فدراسیون شطرنج ایران تصمیم گرفته است به دلیل شرایطی خاص از رفتن به این مسابقات صرف نظر کند.

به گزارش ایسنا، در مسابقات المپیاد جهانی نوجوانان ۴۷ تیم به رقابت می پردازند که این رقابت ها از ۲۸ اکتبر تا ۶ نوامبر در ترکیه برگزار خواهد شد. قرار بود تیم ملی ایران با ترکیب امیررضا پورآقابالا، آرش داغلی، آزاد نظری، بردیا دانشور و آتوشا مهدیان در این رقابت ها حضور داشته باشد.

ایران سابقه قهرمانی در این رقابت ها را در کارنامه خود دارد و حتی توانسته است علاوه بر قهرمانی بر روی سکوی این مسابقات قرار گیرد.

**Answer:** In interview of Mr. Pahlavanzadeh, he did not mention the presence of any country, is a reason for not sending the Iranian team to the World Cup. Rather, he mentioned, financial problems have been cited as the reason for canceling the team's submission to the tournament, which in the article of the England Federation, contrary to the fact, it is stated that Pahlavanzadeh stated that the reason for not sending the Iranian team was the presence of Israel. The photo published by the England Federation itself is evidence of a false claim.

7. Parham Maghsoodloo (12539929) and Amin Tabatabaei (FIN: 12521213) In the sixth edition of the Sunway Sitges chess festival in Spain, Amin Tabatabaei (FIN: 12521213) and Parham Maghsoodloo, s '(FIN (12539929) played against Israeli players in the Night Blitz without checking their opponent nationality. **This caused huge problems for them.** Even before returning to Iran, they were forced to apologise. Parham, in order to protect himself, was forced to criticize the Israeli government. They had no idea that their opponents were from Israel (Because it was an overnight blitz where results were not being uploaded on the chess-results website during the event).

**Answer:** On what basis did the England federation claim that Parham and Amin had big problems returning to Iran after playing with the Israeli players? Also, is there any evidence that they had to apologize for protecting themselves?



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## Conclusion

Dear Mr. Nigel Short, you have been present in Iran for many years act as the coach of the national team of Iran, the player invited you to the Caspian International Tournament and the Star Cup, for a match against Ehsan Ghaem Maghami, and you are fully aware of the policies of the country. The change and current behavior and act against Iran Federation is very surprising and make several question marks to our mind

What is the benefit of the suspension of the Iran Chess Federation for FIDE and the chess community, except that it deprives the chess world of the presence of hundreds of geniuses and causes material and spiritual damage to 45,252 members of fide in Iran?



Finally, the question that arises is why the England Chess Federation has entered into an issue that is not related to this country and is seeking to highlight political issues by researching in the domestic media in Iran? In which part of the statement presented by the England federation was there an issue related to the any English players?



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Why England federation has let it self to interfering in the affairs of the other member federation?

However, according to the grand master Nigel Short, who in his interview at the 2016 World Chess Olympiad in Azerbaijan he announced that the Iran men's national team will be one of the top chess teams in the world till 2022. Doesn't this mean that the England Federation is looking to eliminate Iranian geniuses in order to maintain the power of its players in the world?

We recommend to England Chess Federation:

1. Do not interfere in the internal affairs of other federations for political objectives.
2. Adhere to the Olympic Charter and do not combine politics with sports.
3. Instead of eliminating competitors through non-sporting methods, we should promote healthy and fair competitions on the chessboard.