Resolution for the 2020 FIDE Congress

Submitted by Nigel Short (FIDE VP) & Malcolm Pein (Delegate England)

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 Tabatabei and IM Aryan Gholami refused to play.

Congress notes: The resolution of the ECU passed unanimously at The ECU General Assembly, meeting in Skopje on March 23rd, 2019 requesting of the FIDE Presidential Board:

A statement that such individual boycotts will no longer be tolerated.
A resolution from the Board banning the practice of 'special pairings' at
the Chess Olympiads, FIDE tournaments and in all FIDE rated events.
This refers to the practice of deliberately keeping players or teams from
certain countries apart by adjusting the pairing software.
If required, to take such steps at the next General Assembly to ensure the
two points above are on the agenda for the next FIDE GA.

Congress notes: The transfer of Alireza Firouzja to the FIDE flag.

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

Congress notes: The execution of Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari افكارى نويد on 12 September 2020 despite the intervention of the IOC President Thomas Bach.

Congress notes: The rejection by the Guardian Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the proposed charter of the National Olympic Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran (N.O.C.I.R. IRAN) at a press conference in Tehran given by Mr. Kadkhodaei.

Congress notes: The letter of the FIDE President to the Iranian Chess Federation dated 8th June 2020 (https://www.fide.com/news/620) and the reply from the Iranian Chess Federation dated 22nd June 2020 stating that decisions on whether to play are for individual athletes.

Congress notes: The mission and role of FIDE as set out *inter alia* in art. 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 of the FIDE Statutes;

Congress notes: The FIDE principles as set out *inter alia* in art. 4.3 - 4.8 of the FIDE Statutes;

Congress notes: The obligations of member federations as set out *inter alia* in art. 11 (a) - (c), (i) - (j) and (l) - (m);

Congress notes:

The power of FIDE to suspend and expel member federations which do not fulfil their duties in terms of art. 13.1 of the FIDE Charter and the:

Mission and role of FIDE

- 2.4 FIDE is recognised by its members and by the International Olympic Committee as the international federation in the domain of chess, the supreme body responsible for the sport of chess, its championships and events.
- 2.5 The mission of FIDE is the diffusion and development of chess among all nations of the world, as well as the raising of the level of chess culture and knowledge on a sporting, scientific, creative, educational and cultural basis.
- 2.6 FIDE supports close international cooperation of chess devotees in all fields of chess activities, thereby also aiming to improve harmony and promote peace among all peoples of the world.

Congress reaffirms:

FIDE principles

- 4.3 FIDE is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.
- 4.4 FIDE rejects any kind of discrimination against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, citizenship, birth, age, status, wealth, disability, language, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, sexual orientation, political opinions, or any other reason.

- 4.5 FIDE shall undertake all measures necessary to guarantee equal access to the game of chess and tournaments to all genders and to assure gender balance inside FIDE organs and management, in the percentages specified in the Electoral Rules.
- 4.6 FIDE shall undertake all measures necessary to guarantee equal access to the game of chess and tournaments to all countries, zones and continents and to assure fair representation of countries, zones and continents inside FIDE organs and management.
- 4.7 FIDE events may be hosted only by nations where free access is assured to representatives of all FIDE members. Exceptions can be admissible only for reasons of state of war or severe violence and conflicts between countries and have to be decided on a three-quarter majority vote of presents, by the General Assembly or the Council.
- 4.8 FIDE shall promote friendly relations between and among member associations, clubs, officials and players.

Congress reaffirms:

Art 11 - Obligations of Member federations

Member Federations must:

- a) observe all rules, regulations and decisions of FIDE and ensure that their members and various bodies, including leagues and clubs, also comply with them;
- b) ensure that their statutes and rules fully comply with FIDE rules and regulations;
- c) comply with their own statutes, rules and regulations, refraining from taking discriminatory decisions or actions;
- i) recognise FIDE's authority and position
- 1) act independently from any government, public or private institution, except for what provided as mandatory by their national legal order;
- m) promote amicable and courteous relations with other Member Federations and their members, officials and players.

Congress notes:

The action of the International Judo Federation (IJF) against the Iran Judo Federation including a suspension from all competitions, **citing**:

Respect for the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding and a spirit of friendship, solidarity, and fair play; Respect for the principle of universality and political neutrality of the IJF and of the Olympic Movement; Rejection of all forms of discrimination, no matter the reason, in particular related to race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, wealth, birth, or any other situation; And violations of the Olympic charter and the IOC Code of Ethics.

Reference: https://www.ijf.org/news/show/final-suspension-for-iran-judo-federation

Congress notes: The letter of the Iranian Chess Federation does not commit to ending boycotts.

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

Congress requests: The Iranian Chess Federation to instruct its players to compete against all nations in FIDE.

Congress resolves, in accordance with <u>Article 13 - Suspension and expulsion</u> by member federations

13.1 Member Federations not fulfilling their duties may be suspended from FIDE membership by a decision of the Council that is immediately effective but is subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, and may be permanently expelled from FIDE by a decision of the General Assembly.

That: Failure of the Iranian Chess Federation to instruct their players to compete against all countries in FIDE at any time with effect from 1 January 2021, or any future boycott from that date by an Iranian player of another player at the request or instigation of the Iranian Chess Federation, shall result in a mandatory suspension of the Iranian Chess Federation from all FIDE activities by the FIDE Council, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly in terms of Art 13.1 of the FIDE Statutes.

ENDS

On the 5th of January 2019, Aryan Gholami refused to play against Ariel Erenberg from Israel at the Rilton Cup in Sweden.



In the left picture Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei congratulates chess player Aryan Gholami for refusing to play against Israel.



Officials of the Iran Chess Federation and Sport Ministry honoured him in different ceremonies. They publicly announced in the media that he refused to play due to political reasons and introduced Arian as a national hero.



The Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) extraterritorial arm (Qods Force), Brigadier General Qasasem Soleimani gives his ring to Aryan Gholami for refusing to play against Israel..

2. Alireza Firouzja (12573981) In Grenke Open 2019

In the Grenke Open 2019, the Iranian prodigy Alireza Firouzja forfeited his third-round game as his opponent was an Israeli national: FM Or Bronstein. Iranian media reported that it was a political move.



https://www.isna.ir/news/98013113526/

3. Arian Gholami (FIN: 12513342) in World Junior 2019

In the World Junior 2019, in Chennai, Arian Gholami refused to play against his Israeli opponent Alexander Zlatin in round 4, claiming to the Chief Arbiter that he was ill while failing show up to be checked by the official tournament doctor.

Read more at:

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/71667874.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_mediu m=text&utm_campaign=cppst

The Iran Chess Federation officially announced on its website that he deliberately refused to play against the Israeli opponent.



Later, due to private complaint from FIDE, Iran Chess Federation purged this report from the website, but continued to advertise it on other official Farsi websites.

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:

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/chess/iran-israel-politics-plays-out-at-world-junior-chess/articleshow/71667874.cms



All reports in Iranian media indicates that it was a political move. Above is a screenshot from IRNA (The Islamic Republic News Agency www.irna.ir/news/83522894) where it is written that Amin refused to play against an opponent from the "Zionist" regime.

The Iran Chess Federation also announced on its website that Tabatabaei refused to play against a player from the "Zionist regime".

thttps://www.ircf.ir/News/detail/4914/%D8%AA%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%85-

%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%B4%DB%8C%D9%86%DB%8C-%D8%B9%D9%84%DB%8C-

%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A8-%D8%AF%D8%B1-

%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AA-

%D9%82%D9%87%D8%B1%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C-

%D8%B4%D8%B7%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%AC-%D8%AC%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%86-

%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%86

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 Pahlevanzadeh, in his interview with ISNA News Agency implies that they withdraw from event because of Israeli Team.

6. Mobina Alinasab (12528897) Elllobregat Open 2019

Mobina Alinasab was forced to not play against an Israeli player due to political pressure in the 2019 Elllobregat Open Chess Group A in Spain. According to Tasnim News Agency the officials honoured her in a ceremony.



https://tn.ai/2166415



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, (FIN (12539929) played against Israeli players in the Night Blitz without checking their opponent's 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.



https://www.nasimonline.ir/Content/Detail/2342461/%D9%85%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%84%D9%88-%D8%B1%DA%98%DB%8C%D9%85-

%D8%B5%D9%87%DB%8C%D9%88%D9%86%DB%8C%D8%B3%D8%AA%DB%8C-

%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%85%DA%AF%D8%B1-%D9%88-%D8%A2%D9%84%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%87-

<u>%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D9%85%D9%84%DB%8C%D8%AA-</u>

%D8%AD%D8%B1%DB%8C%D9%81%D9%85-%D8%A7%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B9%DB%8C-

%D9%86%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%AA%D9%85

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).



The President of the chess Federation also announced to the media that it was an accident and Iranians will never play against Israeli opponents again. (Mehr News Agency)

mehrnews.com/xQPVj

8. Iran's Parliament

After Parham and Amin played against Israeli players (See. 6), Iran's Parliament wrote to the Sport Minister. See document below:



Photo: Iran's parliament officially warned the sport Minister about chess players who played against Israelis. https://www.tarafdari.com/node/1492772

However, apologising publicly by the players was not the end of the story and as a consequence, the Sport Ministry and the Iran Chess Federation decided to cancel male players' participation in the World Rapid and Blitz 2019. This was a totally unacceptable decision for Alireza Firouzja.

9. Alireza Firouzja (12573981) Participation in the World Rapid and Blitz

When the Iranian Chess Federation cancelled the participation of its male players to the World Rapid and Blitz 2019, in order to prevent Iran-Israel pairings, Alireza realised that the only way he could fulfill his enormous talent, was to play under the FIDE flag.

Had the Iranian Chess Federation not broken the FIDE Charter yet again, this move would not have been necessary.

In an interview with Tasnim News Agency, the president of Iran Chess Federation, accounted that it was a political decision and players didn't play in the World Rapid and Blitz in order to avoid facing Israeli players. He also announced that due to this matter, Firouzja changed his flag.



Pahlevanzadeh also announced that Forbidden pairing is going back to FIDE again

https://tn.ai/2192735

10. Iraj Sabah (12503096)

In the 2019 FIDE World Senior Chess tournament in Romania, Iraj Sabah was paired against Eran Wolf from Israel in round 2. Due to the inevitable political coercion, he had no option other than to withdraw from the event. Iranian official media reported that it was a political decision.



https://www.isna.ir/news/98082315297/

11. Sarasadat Khademalsharieh (12512214) In World Rapid and Blitz 2019

After complaining against Iranian policy regarding Israel in an interview with ChessBase India, https://twitter.com/nigelshortchess/status/1210285725465354244?lang=en the former World Rapid and Blitz silver medallist faced serious problems in Iran. She was stopped at the airport and denied the opportunity of participating in the Gibraltar Open 2020 and also the FIDE Grand Prix.

12. Pouya Idani (12503096) 2020

In January 2020, Pouya Idani played in the Gibraltar Masters Chess Festival and due to political reasons he had to refuse to play against an Israeli opponent. Iranian official media reported that it was a political decision. https://tn.ai/2187833

13. Iran's Guardian Council Rejects National Olympic Committee's Charter 2020

The Guardian Council rejected the proposed charter of the National Olympic Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran (N.O.C.I.R. IRAN) and sent it back to the government for revisions, the Spokesman for the Guardian Council, Abbasali Kadkhodaei has said.

Mr. Kadkhodaei made the comments at a July 11 press conference in Tehran, during which he released the Guardian Council's ruling on the N.O.C.I.R. Iran's proposed charter.

The Guardian Council found 14 issues with the draft proposal of the charter, three of which it said violated the Iranian Constitution and religious principles, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

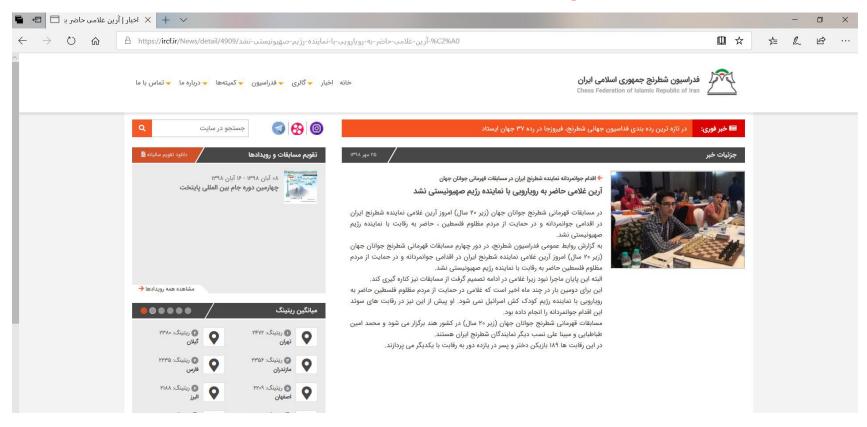
The council's principal objection was to those articles in the charter that protected the N.O.C.I.R. Iran against political, social, and religious pressures and rejected gender discrimination.

In its decision, the Guardian Council urged the government to remove Article 16 of the charter which opposes "political, legal, religious, economic pressures and rejects gender discrimination." The council said the article "violated religious principles and Articles 4, 12 and 13 of the constitution."

http://fna.ir/eybi3

Additional Material from website of Iran Chess Federation (Only from Iran Chess Federation website)

1. Iran Chess Federation calls Israel a child-killer regime

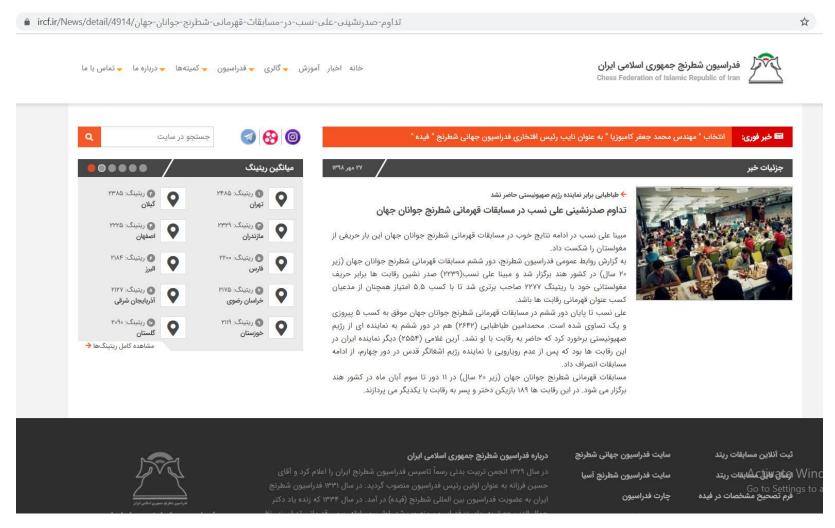


Monday 23 September 2019

The Iran Chess Federation reported that Arian Gholami in a fair action refused to play against an athlete of the Zionist Regime, in order to support the people of Palestine.

In this article the Iran Chess Federation mentioned that this is the second time in the recent months that Arian Gholami refused to play against a representative of the child-killer regime of Israel.

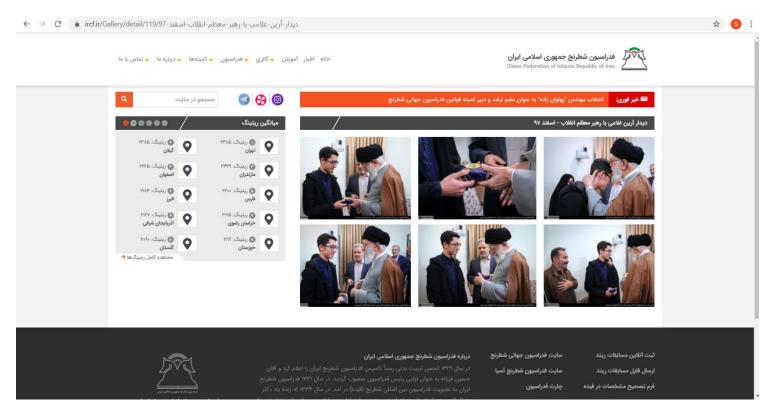
2. The Iran Chess Federation reports that Tabatabaei deliberately refused to play against an Israeli opponent in the World Junior Championship



Monday 23 September 2019

In a report about the World Junior Chess Championship in India, the Iran Chess Federation wrote that Mohammad Amin Tabatabaei refused to play against an athlete of the Zionist regime.

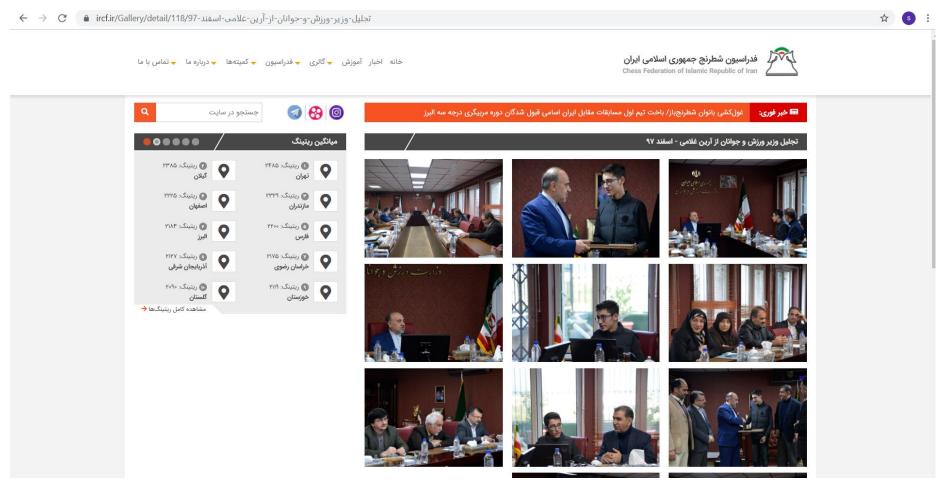
3. The Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei praises Arian Gholami for Israel Boycott



Photos of Arian Gholami on the Iran Chess Federation website: (Meeting the Supreme Leader)

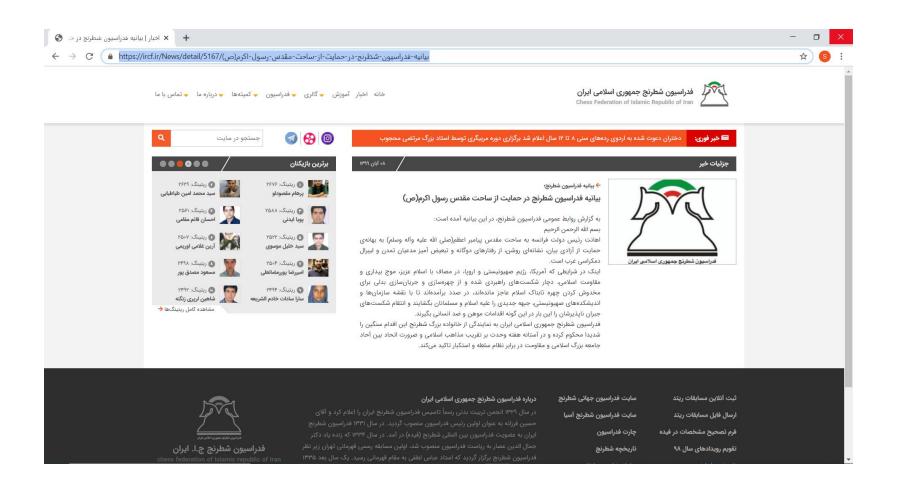
https://ircf.ir/Gallery/detail/119/%D8%AF%DB%8C%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A2%D8%B1%DB%8C%D9%86-%D8%BA%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%DB%8C-%D8%A8%D8%A7-%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A8%D8%B1-%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B8%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%82%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%B3%D9%81%D9%86%D8%AF-97

4. The Iranian Sport Minister Praises Gholami for refusing to play against an Israeli (photos on the Iran Chess Federation website)



https://ircf.ir/Gallery/detail/118/%D8% AA%D8% AC%D9% 84%DB% 8C%D9% 84-%D9% 88%D8%B2%DB% 8C%D8%B1%D9% 88%D8%B1%D8%B2%D8%B4-%D9% 88-%D8% AC%D9% 88%D8% A7%D9% 86%D8%A7%D9% 86-%D8%A7%D8%B2%D8% A2%D8%B1%DB% 8C%D9% 86-%D8%BA%D9% 84%D8%A7%D9% 85%DB% 8C-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%81%D9%86%D8%AF97

5. Political Statement of Iran Chess Federation against France, Europe, the USA and Israel



Thursday 22 October 2020