



**BELARUSIAN SPORT
SOLIDARITY
FOUNDATION**

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President Zorzs TIKMERS
Latvian Olympic Committee
lok@olimpiade.lv

*Re: Anti-War Declaration of Athletes'
Community*

May 10, 2022

Dear Mr Zorzs TIKMERS,

The Belarusian Sport Solidarity Foundation ("*the BSSF*") welcomes the position of the Latvian Olympic Family regarding sanctioning the Belarusian and Russian official representatives based on the aggression launched by Putin against Ukraine with the facilitation of Lukashenko.

In the stated context of Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, on 8 May 2022, the Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation, which commemorates those who died in the Second World War, the BSSF has presented the sporting community with the Anti-War Declaration, by signing which any athlete can support unified demands for an end to hostilities, restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity, and for those responsible to be brought to justice. The Declaration could be found by the link: <http://antiwar-declaration.org/>

In a situation that threatens the security of not only Europe but also the entire world, the BSSF declares the need to express a united position of the international sports community to condemn the military aggression against Ukraine.

The Anti-War Declaration aims to unite all the global sports standing against the war in Ukraine into one loud voice that cannot be unheard. The unity and solidarity of the sports family is a demonstration of the power of sport and its responsibility to establish and maintain peace. Athletes all over the world must make a categorical statement against military actions as a means of resolving conflicts.

For Belarusian and Russian athletes to sign the Anti-War Declaration will mean a strong condemnation of their governments' actions. These actions started a war against Ukraine, and thousands of civilians were killed, while millions were forced to become refugees. It will also be an expression of solidarity with the Ukrainian athletes who are dying on the battlefields defending their people and the independence of Ukraine.

The silence of the athletes now is a sign of support for the war, which is completely inconsistent with Olympic values that are based on the pursuit of peace.

As of now, more than 100 Belarusian and Ukrainian sports representatives have already supported the declaration with their signatures, including Ilya Shkurin, Aliaksandr Khatskevich, Andrei Krauchanka, Nadzeya Ostapchuk, Natalia Leshchyk (Belarus), Yevhen Seleznyov, Maksim Shatskikh, Georgii Zantaraia, Yevhenii Doroshenko (Ukraine), Benjamin Verbic (Slovenia).

In the light of the above, we respectfully ask you to support our initiative for peace presented in the form of the Anti-War Declaration. We would appreciate it a lot if you find it possible to support the Declaration through an official statement within your official media resources and Anti-War Declaration distribution within the members of the Latvian Olympic Family.

We express our gratitude for your support, and our team is ready to provide you with any further details regarding the above-mentioned or other helpful information required. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via phone or via email.

Yours sincerely,

Aliaksandr Apeikin
Executive Director of
Belarusian Sport Solidarity Foundation



Anatol Kotau
Head of International Relations Department
of Belarusian Sport Solidarity Foundation
Former NOC Belarus Secretary General

