

Sample Petition to THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

PETITION THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Dear Messrs. Rogge and Verbruggen:

In the spirit of all that the Olympics represent, I am urging you to work with the international community to ensure that China's role in enabling and funding genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan does not diminish the vision of "One World, One Dream" for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

As I am sure you know, the government of Sudan has been waging a campaign of brutal violence against the population of the Darfur province. Hundreds of thousands of people have died and more than 2.5 million people have been forced to flee since the violence began in 2003.

China, the host country of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, has enabled this violence through its investments and oil purchases in Sudan, its massive arms trade with Khartoum and its unstinting diplomatic protection of the Khartoum regime at the UN. While the global community supports a UN resolution to send 22,500 peacekeeping troops to Darfur, China has effectively blocked it at the UN Security Council.

The idea of "One World, One Dream" will seem perversely ironic if images of the dead and the dying in Darfur are juxtaposed with images of athletic triumph from the Olympic Games, hosted by a country facilitating unfathomable suffering and destruction. Such juxtaposition can only serve to tarnish the Olympics, and all it represents.

I urge you to help these efforts by talking to the leaders in Beijing who are coordinating the Olympic Games. Please ask the Chinese government to immediately persuade Khartoum to consent to a protection force for Darfur with a strong mandate to protect civilians and humanitarians and to engage in a peace process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,