



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

Renee Xia  
International Director  
Network of Chinese Human Rights  
Defenders

**Communications Department**

Lausanne, 24 October 2014

**Your letter of 11 September 2014**

Dear Ms Xia

Thank you for your recent letter addressed to the IOC President Thomas Bach, who has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Olympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games have long been an opportunity for groups such as yours to draw attention to issues well beyond the world of sport.

However, it should be acknowledged that the IOC is first and foremost a sports organisation responsible for the staging of the Olympic Games and that it is not equipped to conduct its own investigation into allegations of human right abuses. It is not a supra-national parliament or government that can change or influence national legislation or legally challenge court rulings in cases where it has no jurisdiction or legal standing.

In an effort to ensuring greater respect for human rights in global sport, the IOC has added a clause on non-discrimination relating to the Olympic Games and its participants based on Fundamental Principle 6 of the Olympic Charter in the final draft Host City Contract for the 2022 Olympic Games which has recently been sent to the Candidate Cities.

The IOC is first and foremost a sport organisation. We must rely on information provided by NGOs and by government authorities in the host nation. Nevertheless, we take our obligation to defend human rights in Games-related cases quite seriously and will continue to meet that obligation to the best of our ability.

Kind regards,

Mark Adams  
IOC Communications Director