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Sent: 6. juni 2011 17:10
To: ITF Chang Ung; ITF Chang Ung; ITF Chang Ung
Subject: VS: Regarding ITF lifetime membership card
International Taekwon-Do Federation
Draugasse 3

1210 Vienna
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6. th of June 2011

Regarding my lifetime membership card in the International Taekwon-Do Federation Chang Ung.

When I began studying Taekwon-Do in 1983, I paid for and received a lifetime membership card from the organization. As there are currently three ITF organizations, it was interesting for me to find out if my lifetime membership card was still valid in the ITF Chang Ung. According to the reply I got from Mr. Ri Yong-Son, Executive Director General of ITF Administration is my membership card still valid.

Of conscience, ethical and moral reasons, I have now decided to return this lifetime membership card to the ITF Chang Ung of the following reasons:

I have read a bit about the situation in recent years according to the situation in North Korea and I've also read reports, "A Call for UN Security Council two Act in North Korea" and "The Ongoing Challenge of North Korea" as the Oslo Center for Peace and human rights initiated in 2006 and which was written by Kjell M. Bondevik, Vaclav Havel and Elie Wiesel. Beyond this I have also read some of what Amnesty International has published.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a country ruled by an elite and a dictator who commits active crimes against his own people and the regime has detained several hundred thousand people who are in opposition to the power elite in political prison camps without legal proceedings and often on the basis of unfounded allegations.

Dissidents are forced to work long hours under brutal conditions and many are subjected to arbitrary executions with preceding torture for minor offenses. Children and elderly are and have been arrested under a special system of collective guilt for three generations and the prisoners in these detention camps receive food rations at a starvation level. This practice was initiated by DPR Korea's founder and eternal president Kim Il Sung.

The way the regime in DPR Korea treating its people makes me reminiscent of how Pol Pot's Communist regime, the Khmer Rouge, operated in Cambodia in the 70s and ended up in genocide. It is worth noting in this context is that this regime in the 70's got sympathy from some politicians in Norway. After the Khmer Rouge's collapse in January 1979, it was remarkably quiet and we did not hear so much from these politicians. More than I've probably wondered what kind of conscience they had after the collapse of Pol Pot's regime.

In this context, it is very interesting to ask what individuals or organizations will say or think about the day that the North-Korean regime falls, no regimes like this has existed for all eternity.

I suspect that there are some in the current leadership of the ITF and the national organizations that in retrospect probably will have difficulty justifying the support they have given and received, with regard to membership in a Taekwon-Do organization so closely connected to a dictatorship. The military rearmament and nuclear weapons program in DPR Korea appears to be paid with the "grain as the kids and the rest of the population needs." International organizations that receive financial support in one form or another from DPR Korea are eating of the same "grain" that people so desperately need. What is the difference between the present concentration camps in the DPR Korea and Holocaust? In some cases, the North Korean camps are perhaps much worse and in our enlightened world there are very many who are almost apathetic in relation to what is documented about these camps.

It is possibly someone who wants to see me "crucified" because of my opinions and views, but my opinions can't be crucified. I'm not out to judge the ordinary members of the ITF Chang Ung, but I ask myself very critical of the close connection between the ITF Chang Ung and the North Korean regime. I am equally critical of how some national organizations affiliated to the ITF almost has chosen to ignore that they "sympathize" with the regime indirectly according to their membership in the ITF Chang Ung.

Prof. Chang Ung is a sympathizer and a member of the regime in North Korea with reference to that in 2003 he became a

member of the Supreme Assembly of People of DPR Korea and I consider him as a person who has firsthand knowledge of how the regime treats its own people.

International Taekwon-Do Federation is, in my view, an organization with too much influence from the regime, and it has amazed me many times why do not more people have shown their disgust that an international Taekwon-Do organization has such close contacts with the world's worst dictatorships that oppresses its own people.

The thought occurred to me several times that I helped to support this regime in accordance with my lifetime membership in the ITF Chang Ung. Some may feel that since Prof. Chang Ung is a member of the IOC, this helps to justify the ITF's close relations with the North Korean dictatorship.

The idea has also occurred to me why not a part of the Taekwon-Do masters who were present when Chang Ung was appointed president of the ITF and who have firsthand knowledge, or should have, about how this regime suppresses its own people, not publicly denounce the regime.

On the contrary, one of the aforementioned Taekwon-Do masters, GM Leong Wai Meng praised the North Korean dictatorship in the description of them as dynamic leaders in a public letter of thanks in connection with an appointment to a doctorate, quote; "I dedicate this award to the homeland of Taekwon-Do, DPR Korea, its dynamic leaders and its beautiful people who have produced such a wonderful son, General Choi Hong Hi, and art, Taekwon-Do, which has made my life whole and meaningful", unquote.

GM Meng's statement that North Korea is Taekwon-Do's Homeland, is historically incorrect. I do not think GM Meng used the expression form because of ignorance.

Prof. Chang Ung has said the following on the ITF's website, quote; "First of all, we must focus our energies and might on the successful hosting of the 17th Taekwon-Do World Championship scheduled in Pyongyang, DPR Korea, the Motherland of Taekwon-Do, in the coming September", end of quote. It is quite remarkable that even the president of ITF refers North Korea as "The Motherland of Taekwon-Do".

There is a direct falsification of the history of these two gentlemen to describe North Korea as Taekwon-Do's motherland with reference to the introduction of Taekwon-Do in North Korea did not happen until 1980. Therefore I consider that the statements of these two gentlemen are only done to satisfy the regime under the leadership of Kim Jung Il.

With reference to the information I have received from the organization KFA (Korean Friendship Associations) is that organization directly affiliated with the regime in North Korea. The Democratic leader of the Spanish KFA Alejandro Cao de Beno de Les y Perez, stated the following: "I'll be a soldier of Kim Jung Il." I hope not that many leaders of other international organizations have the same attitude as Mr. Perez, but I do not look away from it. The Norwegian leader of NKFA (Norwegian-Korean Friendship Association), Mr. B. Simonsen has officially declared that North Korea is a democratic country with full freedom of expression with reference to the North Korean constitution, Article 67. The President of the ITF, Prof. Chang Ung, is a member of the North Korean regime. I assume that he can confirm the information given by KFA with reference to North Korea's constitution, Article 67.

General Choi Hong Hi was a great man, he has created a fantastic martial art, but history has shown that his close relationship and the financial support he and ITF received from the regime in DPR Korea, also had major negative consequences, especially after his death in 2002. Prof. Chang Ung was desired by Gen. Choi as the new president of the ITF. During and after the election of new president 100 days after Gen. Choi's death, several people questioned about this "democratic" election with reference to the ITF's constitution. I have asked myself if this appointment was to satisfy the regime in North Korea and also make sure to maintain the financial support of the ITF after Gen. Choi's death.

Some have expressed that we should not mix politics and Taekwon-Do, but I certainly do not agree. General Choi said that we should unite with all people in a common brotherhood, without regard to religion, race, national or ideological boundaries. It's a good thought, but sooner or later maybe more of us find ourselves in a situation where our ethical and moral norms are in conflict to hold membership in an international organization and its support of a regime that is totally different from what we perceive to be human.

When I arranged the IIC in Norway with GM Choi Jung Hwa in 2008, we sent out invitations to those who also were members of the other ITF organizations. At the beginning of August 2008 decided ITF Chang Ung, referring to Mr. Kim Chol Gyu, that none of their members in Norway were allowed to participate. The reason was that GM Choi was excluded by the General himself in Congress. The circumstances surrounding this "democratic" process and whether this was in accordance with the ITF's constitution, I will not go into here, but it is noteworthy that free people in a free country can be dictated by an

international organization that is more or less controlled and supported by a dictatorship. In my opinion, they help to legitimize their international organization is supported by a dictatorship. Moreover, based on the information I received later after this order from the ITF Chang Ung, not all of the board of the NTF (Norwegian Taekwon-Do Federation) was informed of this order from the ITF.

I have asked myself, if dictatorships of Hitler, Gen. Franco, J. Stalin, Mao, A. Pinochet, Mussolini, or Nicolae Ceausescu still existed, had the members and the national organizations of the International Taekwon-Do Federation Chang Ung accepted that their international federations had such close relations with one of the aforementioned dictators? It seems there are "legitimate" for the Board of Directors of the ITF to receive support, including financial support from the dictatorship in North Korea.

In this context, and with reference to the dictatorship of Kim Jung Il, I will refer to Mark Twain who said the following: quote: The greatest tragedy is not the evil man's brutality, but the good man's silence, end of quote.

My lifetime membership card is hereby returned with a copy of this letter to the ITF's headquarter in Vienna.

Taekwon,

Mr. Herulf Mathisen 4.dan
General Secretary
Taekwon-Do Academies Norway