



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL TAEKWON-DO FEDERATIONS OF KAZAKHSTAN AND TAJIKISTAN JOIN UN SG'S GLOBAL CAMPAIGN "UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN" AND CALL ON SPORTSMEN OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO TAKE ACTIVE PART IN THE CAMPAIGN

(Almaty, Kazakhstan, April 27, 2010) Today sportsmen of National Taekwon-do ITF Federations of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have presented and signed a joint appeal to National Taekwon-do Federations and to the International Asian Taekwon-do Federation (ITF). They called them to join Global campaign of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban-Ki-moon «UNiTE to end violence against women». It has been declared at the press conference which has held in Almaty today.

Mr. Dauren Nurgaliev, the president of Taekwon-do Federation of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Ms. Shakhlo Mukhammedrakhimova, the world champion of 2007, the champion of Asia of 2008, the bronze prize-winner of the World championship of 2009, the numerous champion of the Republic of Tajikistan; Mr. Mirsaid Yakhyaev, the president National Taekwon-do Federation of the Republic of Tajikistan and Mrs. Damira Sartbaeva, UNIFEM Regional Programme Director for the CIS countries took part in the press conference.

«Force is given for sport victories, not for violence, especially against women», Mr. Dauren Nurgaliev said. - «Today the National Federation of taekwon-do unites 12 thousand people and we are happy to note that one third of sportsmen are girls. We are glad to become a part of global campaign. A connection with global company is also seen in the basic taekwon-do ideals and in a taekwon-do code of conduct which all the sportsmen should aspire and follow to i.e. mutual respect, trust and support, justice and equality. I think that it is possible to make the importance of this problem evident clear for our citizens through sport activities».

UNIFEM Regional Program Director, Mrs. Damira Sartbaeva emphasized that this campaign attracted great attention in the world both from the governments and civil society. Every day the campaign grows in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States: public surveys on violence against women and signature-gathering campaign under the UN SG appeal are being conducted, various public events are arranged. «UNIFEM welcomes joining of Tajik and Kazakh sportsmen to the UN SG's UNiTE Global campaign. Undoubtedly, active participation of sportsmen in information campaign against violence like "SAY NO-UNiTE" much more strengthens its efficiency», she said.

«The problem of violence against women is widespread in the countries of Central Asia. It concerns each of us. Therefore, it is impossible to remain indifferent to this problem which every day carries away the lives of our mothers and sisters», said the world taekwon-do champion, numerous champion of Tajikistan, 18 year-old Shakhlo Mukhammedrakhimova. She is also Goodwill Ambassador of the campaign against violence in Tajikistan which runs in this country with assistance of a number UN agencies including UNIFEM.

«As sport is one of the effective methods of education from early age, especially it can be said about men, the valid relation to the weak and defenseless, sportsmen can and should become a driving force of this campaign in their countries», President of Tajikistan National Federation, Mirsaid Yakhyaev said. He also added that the idea of this company "UNiTE to end violence against women" is closely connected with the main taekwon-do principles, stated by the founder of this oriental combat, General Choj Hong Hi.

Mr. Yakhyaev also informed the journalists about those events which had already been arranged by sportsmen of the Federation among youth and military men of the Republic of Tajikistan. «I think that the today's appeal will not leave indifferent our colleagues-sportsmen from 8 countries who take part in the 5th Asian Taekwon-do Championship», he stressed.

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