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May 21, 2024

Mr. Thomas Bach  
President  
International Olympic Committee  
Switzerland

Dear President Bach and Esteemed Members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC),

We write today to express our unwavering support for United States Olympic athletes and our profound concern regarding the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)’s mishandling of the recent scandal involving 23 Chinese swimmers who tested positive for trimetazidine (TMZ) prior to the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games.<sup>1</sup> According to reports, “even after other national and international anti-doping officials repeatedly provided [WADA] intelligence suggesting a cover-up and doping by Chinese swimmers, [WADA] chose not to try to hold the athletes accountable,” allowing the positive swimmers to compete and win medals in the 2021 Olympic games.<sup>2</sup> As we approach the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris—now less than 100 days away—it is critical that the IOC takes swift, decisive, and fully transparent action to address this serious matter.

The deeply troubling revelation that nearly two dozen Chinese swimmers, including multiple Olympic medalists, tested positive for a prohibited substance months before the Tokyo Games, yet were still permitted to compete, represents a significant breach of these foundational principles and a profound injustice to clean athletes around the world.<sup>3</sup> This incident raises grave doubts about the efficacy and integrity of certain aspects of the current international anti-doping framework, particularly considering WADA’s glaring lack of transparency and troubling delay in disclosing this information to the public and other competing nations. All nations must be held to the same high standards, with accountability resting in the hands of a fair and impartial international body.

We are deeply concerned by what we believe to be WADA’s inadequate response and explanation that the positive tests were the result of accidental contamination in a hotel kitchen, a

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Schmidt & Tariq Panja, *Top Chinese Swimmers Tested Positive for Banned Drug, Then Won Olympic Gold*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 20, 2024) available at [www.nytimes.com/2024/04/20/world/asia/chinese-swimmers-doping-olympics.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/20/world/asia/chinese-swimmers-doping-olympics.html).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Andrew Das, Joe Ward & Matthew Cullen, *China’s Swimmers Tested Positive. What Happens to Their Medals?*, N.Y. TIMES (April 21, 2024) available at [www.nytimes.com/2024/04/21/world/asia/china-swimmers-doping-olympics-medals.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/21/world/asia/china-swimmers-doping-olympics-medals.html); *Id.*


theory that lacks concrete evidence and “does not pass the smell test,” according to the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).<sup>4</sup> WADA also acknowledged receiving tips from both the USADA and the International Testing Agency regarding the doping of Chinese swimmers yet failed to open an investigation or inform key stakeholders about the 23 positive tests. No nation, no matter how powerful, should be exempt from the highest international legal and ethical sporting standards, and any indications of selective enforcement or favoritism must be addressed with urgency to restore public trust in all aspects of global the anti-doping system. Authoritarian governments must not get a free pass.

The Olympic Games are a key venue for athletic achievement, where athletes from around the globe compete in what should be the spirit of unity and fair play. The IOC is built upon the principle of “protect[ing] clean athletes and the integrity of sport, by leading the fight against doping, and by taking action against all forms of manipulation of competitions and related corruption.” Regrettably, when the anti-doping system is compromised, clean athletes bear the consequences and their years of dedication and hard work are overshadowed by the specter of doping allegations.<sup>5</sup> How the IOC responds to this scandal will directly affect this summer’s Olympic games and their promise of fair play that unites athletes from around the globe.

We echo the Biden Administration and American athletes in calling for an independent investigation to review the entire case file of the 23 positive tests and the decision by WADA to not hold any of the positive athletes accountable.<sup>6</sup> We are committed to safeguarding the Olympic ideal and ensuring a fair competition that honors the sacrifices made by clean athletes in their pursuit of excellence.

The IOC must act decisively to uphold the spirit of fair play and accountability that unites athletes from every corner of the globe.

Sincerely,

  
John Moolenaar  
Chairman

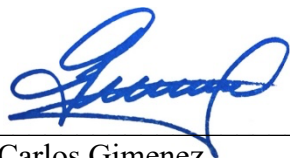
  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Ranking Member

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<sup>4</sup> *Call for Independent Prosecutor and Overhaul of WADA*, U.S. ANTI-DOPING AGENCY (Apr. 23, 2024) available at [www.usada.org/announcement/call-for-independent-prosecutor-wada/](https://www.usada.org/announcement/call-for-independent-prosecutor-wada/); Brian Mann, *World Anti-Doping Agency officials stayed silent about Olympic doping scandal*, NPR (Apr. 22, 2024) available at [www.npr.org/2024/04/22/1246429896/world-anti-doping-agency-officials-stayed-silent-about-olympic-doping-scandal](https://www.npr.org/2024/04/22/1246429896/world-anti-doping-agency-officials-stayed-silent-about-olympic-doping-scandal).

<sup>5</sup> *IOC Mission*, THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, available at [www.olympics.com/ioc/mission](https://www.olympics.com/ioc/mission).

<sup>6</sup> Michael Schmidt & Tariq Panja, *Top Biden Official Calls for Inquiry Into Chinese Doping Case*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 22, 2024) available at [www.nytimes.com/2024/04/22/world/asia/doping-china-swimmers-olympics.html#:~:text=The%20Biden%20administration's%20top%20drug,the%20Summer%20Olympics%20in%202021](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/22/world/asia/doping-china-swimmers-olympics.html#:~:text=The%20Biden%20administration's%20top%20drug,the%20Summer%20Olympics%20in%202021).



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Carlos Gimenez  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress